

Ulster minister sees no hope of Ulster accord

Ulster grew in Ulster yesterday that the sweep in victory of hardline "loyalists" might confrontation with the British Government power-sharing. Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien, a Dublin Cabinet member, said there was no question of the province having a ruling executive. People could not be held in power.

'Loyalist' clash with government feared

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15,000 Saigon refugees left helpless on ships in South China Sea

From Peter Hazelhurst

Manila, May 4

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REFERENDUM

Is will week day will

Political Correspondent
servative peers, who
voting strength to
the House of Lords
on adom Bill, have de-
table any official
s for the committee
remaining stages of
s week.
Aldwyn, the Opposi-
tion, would like to see
ple abroad given an
to vote, but against
l to consider the pre-
playing the referen-
dum almost certainly
up the Bill's progress
could be bad.
"It is not mean that back-
servative peers will
ill through without
it is unlikely, how-
they will persuade
s to go against the
ice of their leaders,
and Lord St
ll move an amend-
ing a vote to British
ers who have the
bode in Britain but
the present electoral

ers, leader of the
are, will get support
arts of the House for
ment to give postal
ll people on holiday
ir constituencies on
day.
party coalition could
t the one defeat for
ment on the Bill in
The change would
ly resisted by the
it when it returns to
us. An argument be-
two Houses on the
ht complicate the
it's arrangements and
difficult to stick to the
s for the referendum.

alls for d d House Correspondent

for a radical reform
situation was made in
Angus, yesterday by
Jas Fairbairn, QC, ve
MP for Kinross
Perthshire.
ng a rally of the
us Conservative Asso-
-the theme, "Scot-
e nationalists' idea of
up the United King-
towards our country
almost communis-
", he said.

dearer today

ice of a large loaf goes
oday to 16p, bread's
increase in less than
nths.

Mr Heath urges poll opponents to say 'yes'

By a Staff Reporter

About four thousand people,
mostly young, attended a Youth
for Europe rally yesterday in
Trafalgar Square. There were
some vocal opposition but, with
many police present, it was a
peaceful rally.
The all-party platform of
speakers included Mr Heath
who was greeted with cheers.
He said that some might dislike
the idea of the referendum and
because they thought that it was
wrong were not going to vote.
"To you I say that is a wrong
approach. If Parliament gives
you a vote, you use it... and
vote yes."

EEC membership was more
than a question of economics
and politics, it was a question
of honour. He said that he had
signed the treaty and those who
wanted Britain to withdraw
wanted to dishonour the British
people.

Those who talked loudest
about international brotherhood,
those who said that we must
frightened about the big wide
world outside our country, he
said.
The only country in the world
that wanted Britain out of
Europe was the Soviet Union
and her officials reason was
concern about the alleged loss
of British sovereignty.

Of course, they were experts
about loss of sovereignty. In
1953, they were worried about
sovereignty in East Germany,
so they overruled it. It was the
same in 1956 in Hungary and
in 1968 in Czechoslovakia, he
added. "Do not let them des-

roy the sovereignty of Western
Europe."

Mr Francis, Secretary of
State for Education and Science,
said that anti-EEC forces were
hopelessly out of date. We
could no longer enjoy cheap
food and cheap energy. At a
time when the world was be-
coming more and more inter-
dependent it was not the most
out to pull up the drawbridge
and isolate ourselves.

Other speakers at the rally
were Mr Steel, Liberal Chief
Whip, Mr Roy Grantham, gen-
eral secretary of the Association
of Professional, Executive,
Clerical and Computer Staffs,
Mr Julian Priestley, represent-
ing the young Labour move-
ment, and Mr Tony Castle, of
the Young Conservatives.

Mr Anthony Speaight, chair-
man of the Young European
Federalists, said last night that
after being invited to speak at
the rally he was telephoned by
Mr Michael Harris, organizer of
the Greater London Young Con-
servatives' campaign, who said
that he could not appear on the
platform.

The original invitation, Mr
Speaight said, came from Mr
Tom Spencer, of the Britain in
Europe youth steering group.
But the situation was so embar-
rassing that he decided to with-
draw.

It was disturbing that his
group, which had about three
thousand members and was cam-
paigning for Britain to remain
in Europe, had been asked to
withdraw from the event, he
added.

Anti-Market ministers attack treaty 'burdens'

By Our Political Correspondent

Five anti-EEC ministers
alleged in a joint statement
yesterday that under the Treaty
of Rome, the EEC Commission
could prevent the British Gov-
ernment from investing money
in British industry to put it into
a competitive position. They
said the burdensome obligations
placed on Britain, if she re-
mained in the Community,
"threaten to ruin Britain."

The ministers, Mr Shore
(Trade), Mrs Castle (Social
Services), Mr Benn (Industry),
Mr John Silkin (Attorney
General) and Mrs Hart (Over-
seas Development), said that
Britain's acceptance of the
Treaty of Rome was an act of
"economic surrender."

The five said that Britain
would be forced to buy expen-
sive Continental food no matter
how cheaply it could be bought
elsewhere. That was why the
French wanted us in the EEC.
The statement continued:
"Second, our fierce industrial
competitor, West Germany, will
be given free access to British
markets at a time when British
industry is critically weak, under
terms which forbid us to fight
back."

Third, we will be forced to share
our secure supply of oil. That is
why all the EEC countries want
us in the Market. Britain's accep-
tance of the Treaty of Rome was
an act of economic surrender. It
was imposed without a single
change to meet the needs of the
British people.

Under the Treaty of Rome, the
EEC Commission is to be the
stop that from happening. These
unequal Community treaties, with
their burdensome obligations,
demand that we remain in the
Market, to ruin Britain.
We warn the British people that
Britain will be faced with

mass unemployment, worsening
inflation, demoralisation, and
working people will be forced to
leave Britain to find jobs.

The five ministers argued that
the effect of the EEC food
policy was that Britain had
become a captive market for
inefficient, high-cost farmers of
Europe.

The effect on industry had
been precisely the opposite of
what was promised. The small
surplus on trade in manu-
factures with the EEC that we
had in 1972 had in two years
of membership turned into a
£600m deficit, which with
higher food imports had pushed
Britain's total balance of pay-
ments deficit with the EEC to
more than £2,000m (£2,018m in
1974).

The twin effects of high food
prices and industrial collapse
were harming everyone in
Britain, not just those who lost
their jobs in industry. Those
who wanted Britain to stay in
had no answer to these facts,
the ministers said.

They said the Community will help
us if we get into difficulty.
The fact is that we are in difficulty
now, and the Community has not
helped us at all. Indeed, it has
helped us back.

Mason warning: Mr Mason,
Secretary of State for Defence,
told miners yesterday in his
constituency at Carlisleton,
Barnsley, that the coalmining
industry's future prospects
would be bleaker outside the
EEC (the Press Association reports).

With self-sufficiency, in oil,
likely in only five years' time,
the later European market
would be vitally needed by the
coal industry. He added that
Britain's pits were being
expanded, output increased and
new equipment bought on the
basis of EEC loans.

WEST EUROPE

Rift delays decision on 'arms sale of century'

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, May 4
Hopes of forging a common
European approach to what has
been termed the arms deal of
the century—the sale of a new
fighter aircraft to four European
Nato countries—needed a
an impromptu meeting, but
finally inconclusive meeting
here on Saturday between Mr
Joop den Uyl and Mr Leo
Tindemans, prime ministers of
Belgium and the Netherlands.

At issue was the battle
between the French Dassault
company's Mirage F1 fighter
and the F16 of American
General Dynamics to win the
contract to supply about 350
aircraft to the Netherlands, Bel-
gium, Denmark and Norway as
replacements for their elderly
F104 Starfighters.
The contract could be worth as
much as £1,500m.

Early last month the defence
ministers of the four countries
agreed that, from the point of
view of operational qualities and
programme cost, the American
machine had "undisputed
advantages" over all other con-
tenders (the British Abcaft
corporation's Jaguar was also a
runner at one stage).

They recommended that a
common choice should be made
before the end of the month.
Both the Danes and the Nor-
wegians are reported to be
desperate to secure the Ameri-
can machine, but the Dutch Government
is still hesitating, partly because
of domestic criticism that both air-
craft on offer are too sophis-
ticated and expensive. Holland
recently reduced the number of
machines it wants from 102 to
84.

However, it is Belgium—the
biggest buyer if the deal comes
off—which is finding most
difficulty in making up its mind.
Belgian aircraft manufacturers,
who are keen to secure the sale,
links with France and already
make engines and important
parts for other Mirage fighters,
have come down firmly in
support of the French aircraft.

A French purchase, they
argue, would create more
compensatory work for Euro-
pean aerospace industries. In
fact, both the French and the
Americans have offered sub-
stantial co-production induc-
ements whereby their aircraft
would be largely built under
licence in the recipient coun-
tries, enabling the latter to
recoup much of their purchase
price.

The difficulty is that these
offers are apparently dependent
in both cases upon all four
countries buying the same air-
craft. Belgium does not seem to
be possible only if Belgium opts
for the YF16. This puts Mr
Tindemans on the spot since he
faces opposition not only from
Belgian industrialists but also
from French-speaking Walloon
peasants in Parliament.

The arms deal has important
implications both for Nato and
Europe. The European Commis-
sion in Brussels is known to
feel that to choose the Ameri-
can machine, the EEC treaty, has
just dealt a serious blow to
the European aeronautic indus-
try, which is heavily dependent
on military procurement.
Signor Alvaro Spinielli, the
Commissioner for Industrial
Policy, has often pleaded for arms
purchases.

Car tries to run over Lisbon 'women's lib' leader

From Jose Shercliff

Lisbon, May 4
Maria Teresa Horta, one of
Portugal's "women's lib"
leaders, is at home with a head
and shoulder injuries after an
attempt to run her down with a
car.

According to Senhora Horta,
a novelist and poet and wife of
a Lisbon newspaper owner, a
car without lights ran at her
and shouldered it on the pavement
as she was walking near her home
in the small hours of yesterday
morning. She threw herself on
the ground to avoid it, injuring
herself in doing so. As the
car passed by, she leant out
and hit her with a stick.

Senhora Horta was one of the
"three Marias" who, during
the Caetano regime, combined

Basque raid on TV station is kept secret by Franco regime

From Harry Debelius

Madrid, May 4
Basque separatist guerrillas
blew up a television relay
station on a mountain near San
Sebastian on May Day, accord-
ing to confidential reports
forwarded to the military
authorities in Madrid.

The attack has not been
made public because of the
state of emergency decreed in
the provinces of Guipuzcoa and
Vizcaya on April 25. Basque
guerrillas have put the station
out of action on several occa-
sions in the past.

Political observers believe
that the incident has been kept
secret in order to avoid em-
barassment for the police, who
have almost unlimited powers
in the two provinces under the
emergency decree.

The sources who revealed the
attack did not say whether the
station was guarded, or if it
was, what happened to the
guards.

A number of demonstrators
were arrested in Granada yes-
terday in front of the Roman
Catholic diocesan headquarters.
They were protesting about
police action on Friday in
striking up a pay-in by secun-
ary students who were calling
attention to unemployment. It

is believed that several priests
and students are among those
taken into custody.

Princess Maria Teresa of
Bourbon told some 2,000
supporters of the Carlist move-
ment on a mountain top at
Montejurra, northern Spain,
today that General Franco's
regime must be overthrown.

She made her fiery speech at
the annual religious pilgrimage
by the Carlist followers of
the Carlist branch of the
Spanish royal family, a branch
which lost its right to the throne
in two civil wars in the last
century.

Also present at the rally was
Princess Irene of the Nether-
lands, wife of the Carlist
pretender, Prince Carlos Hugo.
Princess Irene called for a
"revolutionary democratic
front" for the establishment of
a "socialist federalist mon-
archy".

Prince Carlos Hugo was not
there. He and his relatives,
except for his Dutch wife, were
expelled from Spain by General
Franco in 1968. They have been
living in France.

Altogether about 5,000 persons
gathered at the foot of the
mountain, but less than half
of them made the long climb to the
top. The police did not interfere.

Bomb attacks on French nuclear station site

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, May 4
Two explosive charges have
caused damage at the nuclear
power station under construc-
tion at Fessenheim, on the
Rhine, north of Mulhouse.

An anonymous telephone
call, speaking in perfect French,
yesterday warned two Alsatian
newspapers, *L'Alsace* and *Les
Dernieres Nouvelles*, that three
charges of plastic would go off
within an hour. He claimed to
be a member of the "Meinhold-
Puig Andich group", named
after the German woman anarch-
ist, and the Catalan nationalist
leader executed two years ago.

The management of the power
station site was also warned of
the explosion, but the guard on
duty, who took the call, did not
react at first, thinking it was a
hoax. Only after a second call,
a quarter of an hour before the
first explosion, when he called
the police, was he alerted. The
explosives had been placed, did
he give the alert.

The explosion will heighten
the controversy gathering
strength recently about the
security of nuclear power sta-

tions. The electricity authority
stated last night that damage
was limited and involved only
equipment about to be assem-
bled. It would not delay the
coming into service of the power
station. No nuclear fuel was
located on the site.

Electricity workers on duty at
the time stated that the explo-
sion had occurred inside the
concrete building housing the
reactor. It damaged a steam
generator pump and the system
for lowering uranium rods into
the core.

A woman working on the site
said that she had seen a man
climbing over the inner wire
fence round the reactor, and
making off in an orange car
with a German number plate.

The Fessenheim plant will be
the most powerful in France
when the first two units of 890
megawatts each become opera-
tional in February next year.
Maximum power capacity will
be achieved by June, 1976.
Nuclear fuel is to be loaded
into the reactors in December.

The electricity authority plans
to construct two additional
power units of the same capa-
city in 1982 or 1984.

Eighth victim of Mirage crash

From Our Own Correspondent

Munster, West Germany,
May 4.—The death toll after
the crash of a Belgian Mirage
jet fighter at Vechte near here
rose to eight today when a
woman died from severe burns.
The pilot and six others, five
of them children, were killed
when the Mirage crashed on
Friday, destroying two houses.
—Agence France Presse.

'Goodies' win TV prize at Montreux

For the second time *The
Goodies*, the BBC comedy, has
won the Silver Rose award at
the television festival at Mon-
treux. The last time the BBC
won the silver was in 1972. This
is the BBC's sixth Montreux rose
after winning the Golden Rose
in 1961 and 1967 and the silver
in 1969, 1971 and 1972.

This year's award-winning
show from *The Goodies* was
their first show screened on
February 10.

The Bronze Rose and the
special prize for the most light-
hearted production went to
Austrian television for its pro-
gramme *Mad in Austria*. The
jury gave special mentions to
Hungarian television for *Cirque
Alfonso* and to Polish broad-
casting for *Les Biches*.

The press jury made a special
mention of the Norwegian pro-
duction, *Do You Dig Dogs?*

Child labourer killed on building site

From Our Own Correspondent

Rome, May 4
The fact that child labour is
still common in Italy has again
been brought to public attention
by the death yesterday of
Salvatore Lipari, aged 13, while
working on a building site near
Trapani in western Sicily.
He was the third child to die
in a family of seven.

This was not an isolated case.
It is estimated that about one
million children of school age
are working in Italy and that
the country has the highest rate
of accidents to children.

Film director breaks thigh in fall

From Our Own Correspondent

Rome, May 4.—Signor
Luciano Visconti, the Italian
film director, who is 68, broke
a thigh bone in a fall in his
Rome home yesterday.

Ghost station of the Metro

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, May 4
M Louis Dolly, the communist
mayor of Villejuif, a suburb
south-east of Paris, today in-
augurated the Paul Vallee
Commuter Metro station, at the
corner of Maxim Gorky Street.

The unusual thing about it and
the ceremony, which caused
traffic jams on the national
highway from Paris to Lyons,
was that the station was ficti-
tious. It was straged by the

municipality to draw the
Government's attention to the
need to extend an existing
Metro line to Villejuif.

Fifteen thousand inhabitants
of the place go to work in Paris,
and are fed up with waiting,
and decided to take this action
to obtain their Metro station,"
the mayor said.

Public transport in the outer
Paris suburbs is notoriously in-
adequate and inefficient, and
commuters regularly protest
with little effect.

Italian MPs face law and order issue

From Peter Nichols

Rome, May 4
The delayed debate on the
Government's measures against
growing violence in Italy is
due to open in Parliament
tomorrow. This debate is given
additional importance by the
regional elections next month.

This Bill on law and order
is a traditional piece of legis-
lation. The four parties forming
the Government have all
agreed that new measures were
required to deal with growing
crime and continued political
violence.

But there were immediate
differences within the coalition
ranks on what measures were

called for. Some of the Social-
ists in particular were con-
cerned over the proposed in-
creases in the powers of the
police, especially in the use of
firearms, and in the searching
of people suspected of carrying
arms or explosives.

The Communist opposition,
which forced a debate on the
Bill, is in favour of better
arrangements for dealing with
crime, and of measures against
violence by the extreme right.

But the Communists are more
interested in showing the
extent to which the governing
Christian Democrats may be
blamed for creating the prob-
lem of law and order.

The leadership of the Chris-
tian Democratic Party is con-
vinced that law and order,

combined with a promise of
a change in income tax assess-
ment for married couples,
make excellent issues for the
elections.

They have also felt the force
of the Communist argument,
repeated yesterday by Signor
Enrico Berlinguer, the Commu-
nist leader, in Rome. He called
for a change in the whole
approach to government and
security for the growing crime.

The Christian Democrats
admit that their long period of
rule has not been uniformly
good. In fact one of their most
effective election slogans is
that some of the past 30 years
have, at best, been as good as
others, but they have all been
lived in liberty.

OVERSEAS



The Queen inspects a Gurkha guard of honour on her arrival

Hongkong's children greet Queen

From Our Own Correspondent

Hongkong, May 4.—Thous-
ands of Chinese schoolchildren
greeted the Queen today when
she became the first British
sovereign to set foot in the
134-year-old colony.

Gurkhas provided the guard
of honour as she landed by
launch on Hongkong island. Its
world-famous Victoria harbour
and towering peak were named

after her great-grand-
mother.

The Queen and the Duke of
Edinburgh landed from a
special British Airways jet from
two days of rest in Hawaii after
attending the Commonwealth
conference in Jamaica.

Arriving in Hongkong, the
Queen said: "There cannot be
any other community quite like
this."

In an apparent reference to
the influx of immigrants from
China, she said: "Few other
communities have had greater
problems to deal with or have
contrasted them with greater
vigour, or have survived and
improved the life of their mem-
bers against greater odds."

Premiers forcing action on Rhodesia

From David Spanier

Montego Bay, May 4
Mr Wilson has spent a relax-
ing weekend by surf and sand
and palm trees on the north
east of Jamaica, continuing
his talks with individual Com-
monwealth leaders.

There are supposed to be
crocodiles inland, but most of
the backbiting will come in the
drafting committee in the next
two days, winding up the con-
ference.

It has been said before, of
course, but this time there is a
conviction among Common-
wealth leaders that the Rhod-
esian issue is going to be
resolved. If so, this Common-
wealth conference will prove to
have been an historic turning
point.

Five sets of actors are in-
volved in the Rhodesian
affair—Mr Ian Smith, the Rhod-
esian Prime Minister, Mr Wil-
son, Mr Vorster, the South
African Prime Minister, the
independent African presi-
dents, and the Commonwealth
and the dependent African leaders,
Bishop Muzorewa, the Rev
Nobunani Sithole and Mr
Nikomo.

The most important actor is
not here. The absence of Mr
Smith has made the debate
sound rather like *Hamlet* with-
out the first grave-digger, to
borrow a famous phrase. And
it remains true that no one
really knows how Mr Smith
will react or what he will do.

The how the other actors
see the end-game unfolding.
Mr Wilson and Mr Callaghan,
the Foreign Secretary, would
dearly love to be shot of the
whole business. They are ready
to do what they can to push
Mr Smith into negotiation.
Witness British endorsement of
the plan to give aid to Mozam-
bique, to assist the new regime
in closing its border to Rhod-
esia after independence on June
25.

But the British are on the
defensive. The Africans still
blame Britain for not putting
down UDI by force. They still
do not entirely trust Britain's
good intentions, and this whole
Commonwealth conference has
in one sense been a great exer-
cise in drum beating by the
Africans, to keep Britain up to
the mark.

Next, the African leaders,
President Nyerere and Presi-
dent Kaunda do not want to
have to fight their way into
Salisbury. If bloodshed can be
avoided, they are following a
strategy of putting negotiation
first and fighting second.

But this coming round seems
to be the last chance, and
there is much talk about sup-
port and training for "the
freedom fighters" (to which
Britain is expected to contrib-
ute).

The African presidents draw
an interesting distinction be-
tween Mr Smith and Mr Vor-
ster in explaining why they are
prepared to work with the lat-
ter on Rhodesia in spite of his
policy of apartheid. Britain is
the colonial power in Rhodesia
by law, they point out, but
South Africa is the colonial
power in practice. They say
"for Namibia (South-West
Africa)."

Their quarrel with South
Africa is different in kind. It
is not a colonial. It is a racialist
country. The issue with South
Africa, therefore, is not a
colonial one but a racial one.

They believe that Mr Vor-
ster is genuine in wanting a
settlement in Rhodesia. After
the Portuguese collapse, he
had the choice either of replac-
ing Portugal as the colonial
power, and moving the South
African frontier farther north,
or of accepting the changed
situation and reconciling him-
self to an African government
in Rhodesia. Having made the
second choice he is trying to
persuade Mr Smith to talk.

Finally, Bishop Muzorewa.
Physically the bishop is so
slight and frail it would seem
that a puff of wind might carry
him away. But his fixity of
purpose is not in doubt. "Afric-
an majority rule now" is his
platform, adding "now means
now."

His hope is that the Mozam-
bique sanction will persuade
Mr Smith to negotiate. African
majority rule would be agreed
in, say, one year's time. Mean-
while a transitional government
led by Africans, with a black
prime minister, would take
over.

If this kind of transfer is
not possible, then the bishop
made his case at Dar es Salaam.
"Very reluctantly" they say, to
armed struggle.

Our Salisbury Correspondent
writes: A Government Minister
has reacted strongly to the
debate on Rhodesia, which has
been levelled lately at the
South African Administration,
particularly at the Common-
wealth conference in Jamaica.

Edward Sutton Pryce,
Deputy Minister in the Prime
Minister

HOME NEWS

Sex Discrimination Bill falls short of targets, women say

By David Leigh

The Government's Sex Discrimination Bill, passing through its committee stage at Westminster as the British showpiece contribution to International Women's Year, is causing some disquiet among women's rights campaigners.

New amendments have been accepted by the Government in committee. Mrs Maureen Colquhoun, one of the four women Labour MPs on the committee who are trying to strengthen the Bill, says: "It is playing about in a woolly way with women's hopes and ideals."

Last week's women's demonstrations chained themselves to Westminster railings, and threw a brick through the window of the Transport House in apparent indignation. The Women's Liberation Movement has passed resolutions dissociating itself from the Bill, on the ground that it does not cover tax, pensions, social security, industrial and marital legislation.

The Bill, which passed its second reading with only five votes against, is intended to make it illegal to discriminate against women in jobs, education, training, housing, facilities and services. An equal opportunities commission will be set up to help to enforce it. But the Bill provides loopholes which will, if the experience of the Equal Pay Act holds good, be exploited. Penalties available will include damages, and court injunctions against discrimination.

Unmarried teachers who become pregnant will not have a right to comparable maternity leave. The phrase "authentic male characteristics" used to exempt some jobs, such as modelling and acting, is vague, and the Government has agreed to reconsider it.

A "decency or privacy" exemption, aimed at lavatory attendants, is also being criticized for vagueness, as is an exemption for "personal services" in welfare or education where employers want balanced sex teams. The Factories Acts remain, with their restrictions on night work and overtime for women.

Single-sex schools and colleges are exempt, although the Bill seeks to ensure that schools provide the same opportunities for boys and girls, on the ground of "freedom of choice". The proposed commission will

be able to help women who allege discrimination, but the burden of proof has not been put on the employer. Northern Ireland is left out of the Bill. The clergy and the Armed Forces are excluded, but not the police. Some "reverse discrimination" in providing training or encouragement for women is allowed, but there is no provision for directly increasing the number of women on public bodies or elsewhere.

Mrs Colquhoun wants a balance of sexes Bill, which would provide equal representation on juries, boards of nationalized industries and corporations, and in the House of Lords. She also wants half the members of the enforcement commission to be women.

Another proposal being urged by campaigners, including the National Council for Civil Liberties, Women in Media, the Women's Rights Campaign and the Equal Pay and Opportunity Campaign, is that government funds should be withheld from companies and bodies practising discrimination. That has been done successfully in the United States.

But the main doubt about the Bill, is how far it will affect the fundamental definition of women in British society as dependants and mothers. Women cannot claim sickness or unemployment benefits for dependants; they retire earlier than men and their husbands have to fill in their tax forms. Even if employers and local authorities extend child-care facilities, women will still have to interrupt their careers, with subsequent job handicaps, far more than men.

Other legislation to help women is in prospect. The Government's pension proposals will give women better rights in occupational and state pension schemes. The Employment Protection Bill will give six weeks' paid maternity leave and the right of reinstatement after absence. Equal pay will be fully in force at the end of this year.

But no politician has yet proposed that men should sacrifice to share in the rewards of their careers to share in children's upbringing. Apart from encouraging a slow shift of obsolete attitudes, the practical impact of the Bill for some women may be merely an incentive to work even harder.

To be concluded



London mayors at the start of a walk yesterday from Highgate Hill to the Mansion House in aid of the Moorgate Tube disaster fund.

Complaint against 'The Guardian' over Mr Powell is partly upheld

A complaint that Mr Enoch Powell was unfairly described in an article in *The Guardian* and that a German word used in the headline was suggestive of Nazi practice has been partly upheld by the Press Council.

The Guardian published an article by Rod Chapman, headed "Swiss Vote On Aktion", which dealt with a forthcoming Swiss referendum on whether to expel 40,000 foreigners. It said that the only body left supporting the referendum was the National Action Movement Against Over-foreignization. One of the Government's strongest critics on immigration had always been James Schwarzenbach, the local Enoch Powell, the article said, and he had left National Action two years previously to found his own Republican Party.

Mr B. V. Slater, of Heaton, Bradford, complained to the editor about the headline and said the reference to the "local Enoch Powell" was misleading. Mr Powell had always set his face against compulsory emigration of Commonwealth citizens in this country and had not commented publicly on aliens in that context. The author had

confused Mr Powell's policy of encouraging voluntary emigration for Commonwealth citizens who wished to leave with the proposals of many Swiss that foreigners should be expelled.

Furthermore, the use of the German word *Aktion* was obviously suggestive of Nazi practice. Mr Powell had never indicated the slightest sympathy with Nazi policies. In view of Mr Slater's position—he wrote in his individual capacity as a member of the executive of Bradford and District Community Relations Council—he was scarcely likely to defend Mr Powell if he held such views.

Mr Geoffrey Taylor, assistant editor, replied agreeing that the headline did not draw an exact parallel but said there were distinct similarities between the desire to remove foreign workers from Switzerland and the wish of Mr Powell to see immigrants repatriated. He therefore doubted whether readers would have been misled by the headline. There was no evidence for the assertion that "Aktion" contained Nazi overtones. It was taken from the title of the Swiss organization concerned.

Mr Slater replied that unless something was published that "retraction" was not very effective in practice. He asked why "Aktion" was used in the

headline with German spelling unless it was thought that English readers would connect it with something with which they were familiar through books and films about the infamous era of the Nazis.

Mr Taylor told the Press Council that the reference to the local Enoch Powell was as apposite as far as any comparison between the political circumstances of different countries could be. Mr Schwarzenbach was a right-wing radical and his commanding intellect was acknowledged by opponents and supporters alike. His main aim was to reduce the number of foreigners in Switzerland.

The word "Aktion" did not carry the innuendo claimed by Mr Slater. It was a neutral word used to describe pressure groups of any political hue in Switzerland and Germany. It was not uncommon to use an easily identifiable foreign word in a headline occasionally to give the headline spice.

Told by the Press Council of the complaint, Mr Powell offered no comment.

The Press Council's adjudication, issued today, was: The article contained an irrelevant reference to Mr Powell which was possibly somewhat offensive to him or his supporters. To that extent the complaint against *The Guardian* is upheld.

EEC REFERENDUM

Important changes to UK law underestimated, QC says

By Our Political Editor

Immensely important changes in the law are involved in United Kingdom membership of the EEC, Sir Arthur Irvine, QC, a former solicitor general and moderate Labour MP, says in a message to his constituents in Liverpool, Edge Hill, today. There is little doubt that he speaks for an influential body of legal opinion.

As a lawyer, he challenged a reported statement of Mr Whitelaw, deputy leader of the Conservative Party, that for a few commercial and industrial purposes there was need for Community law.

The implication, Sir Arthur says, was that the electors should not worry too much about that "it would be appalling" he goes on, "if the referendum vote were to take place on the unwarranted hypothesis that the changes in the law are of minimal effect... for the electorate to be conned and nudged along to consider the issue on any other basis is intolerable."

The laws of the Community are to be the laws of England. Any restraint or right of veto which is offered as a safeguard is not

out in the relevant instruments or treaty. The assurance that the Europeans will not pursue a matter affecting a member state's vital interests against that state's wishes is not spelled out. In practice, some restraint would do be shown for some time, but who can foresee for how long?

The judiciary, from years of experience in interpreting statutes of British Parliament, applying careful rules of interpretation, are now to be expected to interpret directives and instruments available in eight or nine languages—to be construed having regard to such novel objectives as the advancement of European unity. As the years pass, there is no reason why such measures should not significantly impinge upon the common law of England.

Sir Arthur contends that the draconian character of the European Communities Act, 1972, was underestimated: it was driven through ruthlessly without a report stage, a debate, a second reading and some other phenomena which have overtaken Parliament in recent years. It had origins which were obscure and a significance which was not accurately estimated. It may be asked: with such large numbers of lawyers in the House how could all this get by? The answer is that there is no safety in numbers and that the sophisticated relationship which pre-

valued in pre-war years between the profession and Parliament is under the pressure of events, but unmistakably fallen away. When the hearing on our law what is proposed is considered the content of a vast transfer law-making power from Parliament one begins to see the enormity of treating the issue on basis that because there National Front and communist characters who favour say: "No", together with members both sides of the House who (deservedly or not) regarded extremists, it is safer to join sober centre. If the society the centre is to be attributed their hopeless under-estimate the importance of the occasion we are in a pretty pass.

Sir Arthur called for every body to rise to the occasion the referendum, the usefulness of which always depend upon the seriousness with which the arguments were deployed. He noted that reds under led were being called by the Opposition with East swill enthusiasm, and those posed to remaining in the E. were represented as extremists although many of them were not. He protested against a paing char ran after boys demons or that underplayed importance of the issue.

BBC accused by Mr Benn of bias over Europe

"One of the major problems facing those who are arguing for the withdrawal of Britain from the European Economic Community is the blatant bias of the Tory press and most of the mass media," Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, said at a demonstration in Manchester yesterday.

"The BBC is supposed to be a public service, but in this respect it seems no different from the others," he added.

It was actively helping to present "this massive constitutional issue" as if it were no more than a private wrangle in the Labour Party.

European "bureaucracy": Mr Ross, Secretary of State for Scotland, said yesterday Britain's best interests would be served by leaving Europe.

He said the EEC Commission, "Europe's monstrous bureaucracy", still had power over changes Britain might wish for in industrial development over regional aid, and fishery and agricultural policy.

Pound 'being allowed to slide' before voting

By Our Political Correspondent

Mr Richard Body, Conservative MP for Holland with Boston, will seek to raise in the Commons today the question of what he calls the Bank of England's continued inactivity in support of the pound in the currency market.

Mr Body, a prominent anti-EEC MP, is taking up an allegation made last week by Mr Christopher Freese-Smith, chairman of the CBI Britain Out Campaign, that the Government appeared to be prepared to allow the value of the pound to slide in the run-up to the referendum.

Mr Freese-Smith said yesterday that he had information that the pound would be allowed to slide a further 5 per cent. That would follow the 22 per cent devaluation since Britain signed the Treaty of Accession. He said: "The pound continued to weaken all last week. This could lead to higher prices for food and fuel imported into the United Kingdom. It also makes it more difficult for firms to quote overseas contracts."

Ironically, the threat that it may cost even more comes following a statement by the United States editor of the *Financial Times* on April 28 that there was a long turn in world food prices. However, as a member of the EEC Britain cannot benefit and a situation will worsen if a referendum keeps Britain's Food prices in Europe are 30 to 40 per cent above the British, by 1977 Britain, if still in, will have to align with the EEC price structure.

Mr Freese-Smith said that with the operation of the common external tariff as well as the common agricultural policy stimulating further inflation the pound would drop below the 50p level within two years. "It might happen even sooner," he said. But he thought if Government's recent action in been calculated to bring about a convinced declaration to provide evidence for the scare promoted by EEC factions that if Britain voted "No" in the referendum there would be a big run in the pound.

Lawyers call for updating of citizenship laws

By Our Legal Correspondent

Modernization of British nationality and citizenship laws is recommended by committee of the Society of Conservative Lawyers in a report published today.

The proposals include the creation of three new categories: United Kingdom citizenship, citizenship of each individual United Kingdom colony and British Overseas citizenship.

The present divisions between Commonwealth citizens, British subjects, and "citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies" should be abolished, the report says.

"The practical disadvantage of maintaining the present situation is that outmoded categories of nationality and misleading terms are likely to lead to false expectations and have necessitated a highly complex and cumbersome immigration law as well," the report says.

Entitlement to British citizenship should be based on the "homeland" principle.

Towards a new Citizenship (Conservative Political Centre, 50p).

Psychologists set out to identify social ills

From Arthur Osman Birmingham

Psychologists from local education authorities and other sectors of local government formed "the movement of practising psychologists" in Birmingham on Saturday. Many are concerned that the ad hoc nature of their work precludes any long-term end.

Those behind the movement are based in the West Midlands but intend to seek support from colleagues elsewhere in Britain. One of their main aims is to produce discussion papers on topics such as mental wards, social services, the penal system and the education service.

A spokesman said: "We are certainly not in opposition to the British Psychological Society. We are looking to clear up important points for ourselves and society generally."

A discussion paper by Mr Andrew Sutton, of Birmingham Education Department, was instrumental in establishing the movement after he had suggested that there seemed to have been little development in the pattern of psychologists' work. Many educational psy-

chologists' investigations were rushed and superficial and could not be described as scientific, he said.

No recent big change in education had arisen from the day-to-day scientific work of practising educational psychologists.

"Practising psychologists have made no significant scientific contribution towards understanding the causation or proposing possible solutions to any of these problems." Only in the failure of the system to provide for black children's needs had educational psychologists come into public consciousness.

It was not suggested that psychology had all-embracing solutions for difficulties faced by children and their families.

"But it does make the definite claim that decisions that are presently made on the basis of untested ideas, untested theories of child development, unwarranted statistical judgments by persons often emotionally involved, would be better made if the problem were scientifically formulated and investigated."

Lightening the load for big oil tankers

The Dutch Shell tanker, Niso, displacing some 140,000 tons in ballast, closed gently on the Norwegian tanker, Sysla, inward bound from the Persian Gulf 10 miles off Lynas Point, Anglesey.

After a six-mile, 90-minute "approach" the two vast ships, each nearly a quarter of a mile long and both moving at four knots, touched rail-to-rail separated only by four enormous rubber and compressed air "Yokohama" fenders. One could have put one's little finger between the ships at the point of impact without feeling pain and Captain Jan Hillen of Niso declared it to be a perfect "four-point landing".

This was a typical tanker lightening operation sometimes carried out as often as once a week in Liverpool Bay or Lyme Bay to enable loaded VLCCs, very large crude carriers, to have their draughts reduced sufficiently for them to enter British ports such as the Mersey.

Only a few captains in both the British and Dutch Shell fleets are qualified to carry out the lightening work, and because of the stresses involved they are allowed only one two-month tour of duty at a time. Captain Hillen, aged 45, who qualified for the job recently and who also holds a commission in the Royal Netherlands Navy Reserve, explained his technique the night before the job. He did so because he thought he would be much too preoccupied to explain anything to anyone while it was going on. The incoming tanker, which will probably have a draught of anything up to 70 feet, virtually comes under the orders of the lightening vessel's master about two hours before rail-to-rail contact is made.

The captain of the incoming ship will be told by radio an exact course to steer and speed

Regional report

John Chartres Anglesey

to maintain, both selected according to wind and sea conditions. The captain of the lightening vessel—Niso is one of a small fleet especially equipped for the job—then closes in on a near collision course, using the wind on the vast freeboard area of her starboard side to draw her in at the right angle.

An occasional difficulty arises from what Captain Hillen describes as "cape-ids". Some captains (though certainly not Ronald Srendren, the Norwegian master of the Sysla) develop a certain nervousness in the close proximity of another ship after the 30-odd day voyage around the Cape of Good Hope with a quarter of a million tons under their feet and cannot quite believe that the other ship's carefully worked out approach is not going to result in a disaster.

After making contact and lashing alongside one another, the two ships turn into the prevailing tide and lie on one anchor while part of the cargo of crude oil, in our case about 64,000 tons, is transferred at the rate of £2,000 tons an hour. In the case of super-tankers destined for the Tramore oil terminal in the Mersey the draught has to be reduced by about twenty feet. After the Niso-Sysla lightening, Mr John Megginson, a senior Liverpool pilot, took the Sysla, still with 130,000 tons of crude in her holds, into the river with

exactly four feet under her keel when we crossed the bar. Niso proceeded to Shellhaven on the Thames via the English Channel.

Although the spillage risks are, so far as the wit of man can devise, eliminated by various fail-safe devices in the pumping equipment, and collision risks minimized by highly sophisticated navigational aids, Shell executives feel that the strong lobby which has been opposing their Anglesey single-buoy mooring scheme may not be fully aware of the complexity of the lightening operations already taking place in the same waters and only a few more miles offshore.

The single-buoy system should come into use next year after a number of delays and rising costs which will bring the final bill up to nearly £70m. Then lightening operations will no longer be necessary in order to get crude oil from super-tankers into the Stanlow refinery in Cheshire which handles some 18 million tons a year and supplies most of the north of England with its oil fuel requirements.

Instead ships will moor to the buoy terminal three miles off the old copper and fishing port of Amlwch, swinging to wind and tide and discharging their cargoes directly into a pipeline system running across Anglesey, the Menai Strait and the north Wales coast, which is now nearing completion. For the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company however the installation of the mooring will be yet another serious financial blow. The Tramore jetties with their own direct pipeline to Stanlow were only completed 15 years ago at a cost of £5m (£2m of which was contributed by Shell) and at present they handle about 15 million tons of crude oil a year.

Land

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OVERSEAS

Egyptian propaganda accuses Libya of preparing an invasion

From Paul Martin
Beirut, May 4

The war of words between Egypt and Libya, which continues to be a source both of embarrassment and amusement for the Arab world, has begun to rival the infamous tussles of the Nasser era. In their latest propaganda shot, the Egyptians have accused Libya of building a defence line along their common border in preparation for an invasion.

The accusation, made by the Cairo magazine *Rose el-Yousef*, reflects the degree to which relations between the two erstwhile allies have deteriorated in recent months. It follows a series of assertions by the Egyptian press and radio, and by political figures, that Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, finally has embarked on a campaign to bring down the present Egyptian regime.

According to the magazine, Bulgaria is helping Libya to build the defence line with the aim of providing "shelter for the invading Libyan troops and to prevent the Egyptians from chasing them back into Libya."

So bitter has the propaganda war become, that it has endangered the paper federation between Egypt, Libya and Syria and threatens a complete diplomatic rupture between Cairo and Tripoli. Although the rift dates back to Colonel Gaddafi's abortive attempt two years ago to form a full union with Egypt, it has only recently developed into open hostility.

The opening shot came from the Cairo press in March when

it asserted that Libya had discontinued all aid to Egypt. This prompted a blistering attack by the Libyans on President Sadat's regime.

The Egyptian leader, who was angered by the personal nature of the attack and references to his wife Jihan, retaliated by stating publicly that Colonel Gaddafi was "100 per cent sick and possessed of a demon."

Soon afterwards the propaganda battle became more heated. The Libyans opened up a new front in Beirut newspapers financed by them. The cover of *Al Massa* carried a picture showing Colonel Gaddafi, looking straight ahead, and President Sadat, stooped and looking sideways. "Which of them is sick?" the paper asked.

In a debate in the Egyptian Parliament, deputies called for a complete break with Libya. One said: "When Gaddafi called for a pan-Arab battle, I thought he was calling for a war against Israel not against Egypt. The Government should find a way of withdrawing all Egyptians from Libya."

Now the Egyptian campaign is centred on accusations that Colonel Gaddafi has been trying to raise a rebellion among the tribes of Egypt in the Western Desert. At a special meeting of the Egyptian Parliament, Bedouin chiefs, representing 73 tribes in the region, declared that Colonel Gaddafi had earmarked \$11m for the venture, and planned to smuggle arms to the tribes and train cadres for the rebellion.



Women soldiers of the North Vietnamese Army clapping at a ceremony held in Hanoi to celebrate the end of the war. Thousands of marchers took part in the rally.

Vietcong invite 'Big Minh' to help

Hanoi, May 4.—General Duong Van Minh ("Big Minh"), President of South Vietnam when the communists occupied Saigon, remains a free man under the new military revolutionary administration and has been "invited" along with other members of his Government to help rebuild the country, the North Vietnamese Army newspaper *Quan Doi Nam Dan* reported today.

The general, referred to as Mr Duong Van Minh, was described as "the President of the puppet administration" before the fall of the city. The newspaper said Saigon officials had been asked to continue working under the new authorities. It did not say what had happened to former Army officers and policemen.

A military administrative committee headed by Lieutenant-General Tran Van Tra, aged 57, one of the main Vietcong leaders in South Vietnam since 1964, has been set up for Saigon and the neighbouring city of Gia Dinh, the Communist

newspaper *Nhan Dan* said. It did not give any details of the committee's powers or functions but foreign journalists who visited the city of Da Nang after its fall to the communists were told that a similar committee had been established there with responsibility for security and military questions.

Once these problems had been settled, the committee would be superseded by a revolutionary committee which would be "widely representative to illustrate national concord."

A Saigon radio broadcast, heard in Hongkong today, appealed to "all classes of the population" to back the new committee with revolutionary ardour.

A communiqué issued by the committee and broadcast by the radio said that workers at the Cho Quan power station and the Thu Duc waterworks, which serve Saigon, were being armed to prevent possible sabotage by "reactionary elements" and

that young people both in the city and the provinces were being organised into self-defence militia units, according to radio monitors in Bangkok. Another communiqué monitored in Bangkok called on owners of boats to report to the Department of Navigation to receive new papers.—Agence France Presse.

Singapore: The new administration in the South Vietnamese capital today launched its first official newspaper—the Saigon Liberation Daily. Saigon radio reported. Distributors were told to collect the first issue later today.

The newspaper was published two days after the military authorities in Saigon banned all privately owned dailies and weeklies.

Hongkong: Thousands of officers and men of the South Vietnamese Navy have surrendered to the Vietcong, the North Vietnamese news agency reported today. They include 12 senior officers and 1,491 other officers.

Evacuee journalist impose news ban

From Bruce Palling
Bangkok, May 4

With more than 150 foreigners still to come out of Cambodia, the half dozen journalists who crossed into Thailand at the weekend in the first evacuee convoy were unwilling to go into details on conditions in Phnom Penh since the Khmer Rouge takeover. They operated a self-imposed embargo on any description of life in the French Embassy compound where most foreigners had taken refuge.

In a joint statement read at the border crossing point by Sydney Schanberg of *The New York Times*, the correspondents said that the embargo was to ensure the safety of all those remaining in the compound. "Anyone who violates it will have to accept responsibility for the consequences to life in the compound," Mr Schanberg said.

Only the barest details are available about the journey made by this convoy to the Thai border, but it is known that it took three and a half days in 26 open army lorries.

About 600 people crossed the single span bridge at Mondul Kiri on the frontier, and of these about 90 had been picked up in Battambang, according to the statement. There were at one time about 1,300 people in the French Embassy compound but several hundred Cambodians were removed by the authorities, it was said.

Apart from signs of exhaustion, most people in the convoy seemed to be in reasonable health. According to a French Embassy official in Bangkok, several hundred of the French nationals will be flown to

France tomorrow.

The first lorries of the evacuees turned up at the Cambodian border town of Prey Veng before 10 on Sunday morning. Shortly afterwards Mr Paul Ignatieff, the Cambodian head of the Cambodian Association of Unicef, arrived by car at the barbed wire barrier on the bridge together with Khmer Rouge soldiers.

After discussing the situation with Colonel Jean Desobert, the French Defence Attaché in Thailand, the scene of waiting foreign correspondents and television crews swarmed round the wooden barrier on the Thai side of the bridge.

Half an hour later, a group of bearded figures appeared dragging a trishaw carrying their luggage. Shouts of recognition rose from the correspondents who recognized in this group their colleagues from Phnom Penh, many now sporting beards and shabbier than before.

There were a few anxious moments when the Khmer Rouge authorities demanded that the Thai immigration officials stamp the list to prove that the journalists had been banded over.

The Thais had no suitable stamps on hand but a quick dash to the immigration post near by produced one.

The correspondents, who included Jon Swain of *The Sunday Times*, Sydney Schanberg and Patricia de Beer of *Le Monde*, proceeded to an air-conditioned tour bus which took them and the subsequent batch of evacuees to a Red Cross medical station for simple medical checks.



John Bushell, British Ambassador to South Vietnam, is seen at the airport yesterday. He is surrounded by British officials and is being escorted to the plane. He is wearing a dark jacket and a light-colored shirt.

Vietnamese find it Niceville after all

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, May 4

Niceville, Florida, today its Vietnamese refugees a reception than might have expected. The local high school turned out to welcome first aircraft load to arrive at Eglin Air Force base, re-named with such time "America's Beautiful" "John Brown's Body".

Niceville has become a place of a brouhaha in the few days, because of the opposition of many local people to the arrival of the Vietnamese, and the ironic contrast the town's name. But hostility was visible when 345 refugees filed off their craft early today.

Apart from the band, mayors of several neighboring towns were there to take in the welcome ceremony. A spokesman for Vietnam, a nervous man who had decided to leave home at a few hours' notice, said: "America spells doom."

Eglin is one of the three bases being used for "processing" the refugees—the other being Camp Pendleton, California, and Fort Cha Arkansas. At Eglin the refugees are being housed in a tent area.

US launches 95,000-ton nuclear powered carrier

From Patrick Egan
Washington, May 4

President Ford went to Virginia yesterday for the commissioning of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *Nimitz*. It will now conduct a series of trials, take on board about 100 fighter bombers, and probably join the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean early next year.

The 95,000-ton carrier, named after the admiral who defeated the Japanese, is both the largest and the most powerful warship afloat. It cost more than \$1,000m (£450m) to build. It is the second nuclear-powered aircraft carrier (the other is the *Enterprise*, completed in 1961) and will be followed by the *Vinson* in 1980.

The *Nimitz* is 1,092ft long and 252ft wide at the widest. Its speed is a secret. The Navy will say that it is "in excess of 30 knots", but it is believed to be far more than that. The Russians are expected to observe the speed from their artificial satellites.

The nuclear reactors can work for 13 years without refuelling. The carrier will have a crew of 5,700 and will require a large fleet of other vessels to protect her.

The President on the occasion repeated what has become the foreign policy theme of the Government in recent days: "We are strong, we will continue to be strong, we will keep our commitments."

How the consul-general's fleet escaped

On board USS *Blue Ridge*, Subic Bay, May 4.—One of the most remarkable escapes from South Vietnam was organized by Mr Terry McNamara, American Consul-General in the Mekong Delta city of Can Tho. Speaking to journalists on the *Blue Ridge* command vessel, Mr McNamara said he had decided to use boats rather than helicopters when the final evacuation order came, because he could take more people that way.

He said that two landing craft and a rice barge had been provided, but one of the crews disappeared by the time the evacuation started. So with Mr McNamara at the helm of one of the landing craft, they set sail southwards with 18 Americans, five Filipinos and 294 Vietnamese on board.

Only three miles downriver, a South Vietnamese river patrol boat fired a shot across their bows. "The officer on board said he had orders to ensure

that there were no Vietnamese military or men of military age on board," Mr McNamara said. The river boat finally allowed them through, but half an hour later a rocket was fired from the river bank, presumably by communist forces. American Marines on board Mr McNamara's craft returned the fire with a variety of weapons.

Covered by a convenient rain squall the small boats made it through the narrow neck of the river into the open sea.

Swedish and British firms blamed for airport cave-in

From Our Correspondent
Teheran, May 4

The commission set up by the Iranian Government last December to investigate the collapse of the roof at Mehrabad airport, Teheran, has attributed the blame to the Swedish contractors, Sentab, who made the technical calculations for the building as well as constructing it. Brian Colquhoun and Partners, the British consulting engineers, also were blamed for failing to detect the faults of the Swedish firm.

Both firms are going to be prosecuted by the Iranian Government and by the families of the 17 people who were killed under tons of debris on the snowy aftermath of December 5.

The commission's report stated that the construction of the airport's main ceiling was started in 1958 by Sentab. According to the contract, the firm was to cover the ceiling's main truss with beams of corrugated iron. In fact, the ceiling was covered with a 5 cm layer of concrete and a 2 cm layer of asphalt.

On the day of the disaster, the ceiling had to withstand the weight of 15 cm of snow—something rather unusual for the Teheran region.

The report said that Brian Colquhoun and Partners, who were appointed to inspect the airport building in 1965, failed to detect the fault and signed the plans confirming their accuracy and correctness.

Stockholm, May 4.—A spokesman for Sentab said the

Swedish company and the British consultants had made their own confidential investigation into the collapse and had presented their findings to the Iranian Government early this year. Since then they had heard nothing.

The spokesman said the collapse appeared to have been directly caused by several additions made to the original Swedish-constructed terminal building—Reuter.

Brian Colquhoun and Partners rejected the charge that they were partly responsible for the collapse.

Mr Colquhoun said his company's contract to supervise construction work finished in 1965.

"After we left, alterations were made to the ceiling by people who didn't really know what they were doing. These made it much heavier."

In 1968 or 1969 they took down the light metal material on the ceiling and then added 2in of concrete. Then, between 1966 and 1970, they added two layers of 3in asphalt to the 2in which was already there instead of repairing it properly and using the original layer of asphalt.

"To make it worse, in 1973 they added a lean-to to one side of the main building. To do this they cut into the reinforced concrete columns which held up the ceiling. This exposed and weakened them. Then there was a fall of snow in December and that was the straw which broke the camel's back."

Dual control theme of talks between Cyprus leaders

Vienna, May 4.—Mr Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish Cypriot leader, today demanded a 50-50 sharing system between Greeks and Turks in management posts in future federal establishments in Cyprus. He said that the majority Greek community on the island would "have to get used to the fact that federation means effective equality between the communities."

He indicated that the Turkish community would hold out for dual control of Nicosia international airport before agreeing to reopen it for civilian traffic. Mr Denktaş and Mr Glafkos Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader, agreed in principle in Vienna yesterday to reopen the airport, but said details would have to be settled later in Cyprus.

The two leaders reached agreement on the airport—closed since the fighting in Cyprus last summer—at the end of six days of negotiations under the auspices of Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General.

Mr Denktaş, speaking to

reporters at Vienna airport before flying to Ankara, said the Turks wanted a manager appointed by the United Nations and approved by both sides and assisted by Greek and Turkish sub-managers.

The same principle should be applied in the management of all federal establishments once a central government acceptable to both communities had been established. Mr Denktaş and Mr Clerides will return to Vienna on June 5 for more discussions with Dr Waldheim on the functions of a central government.

The Turks are pressing for separate zones for each community under a new central administration with limited powers. The Greeks want a strong central government, with separate caucuses. Mr Denktaş will report on the Vienna negotiations to Turkish Government leaders before returning to Cyprus. Mr Clerides leaves tomorrow for Nicosia, and then will travel to Athens to report to the Greek Government. Dr Waldheim left Vienna today for Geneva.—Reuter.

Portuguese fly in food to troubled Angolan capital

Luanda, May 4.—The Portuguese Air Force today began flying supplies of perishable food from provincial centres to the Angolan capital of Luanda, where more than 500 people have been reported killed in five days of fighting.

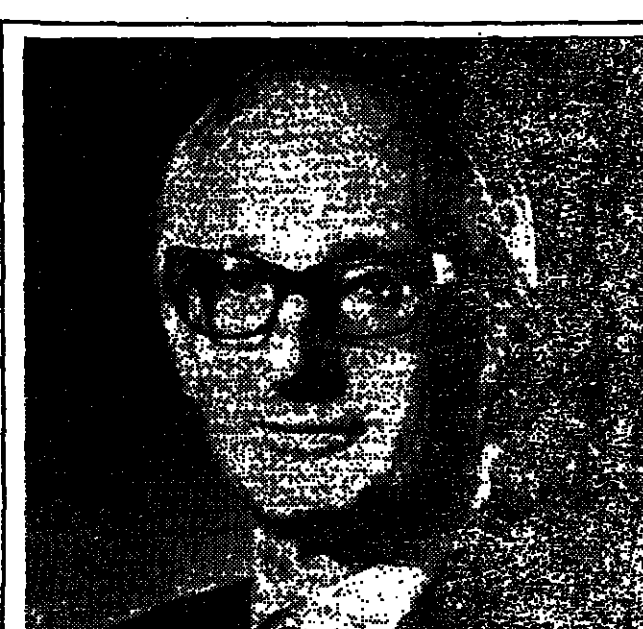
With a dusk-to-dawn curfew still in force, only a few explosions and shots were heard on the outskirts last night.

The violence has involved rival African liberation movements sharing power in the transitional government which is ruling Angola before full independence from Portugal.

Sources at the Luanda morgue said yesterday that 5 bodies had been brought in, but with many never reaching the morgue it was feared a toll might be as high as 1,000.

Relief centres set up by the university, schools and liberation movements appealed for food, medical supplies and clothing for hundreds of refugees they are sheltering.

The Angolan Interior Ministry today said eight foreigners, alleged to have been agitators during the violence had been expelled.



The Duke of Bedford shares some good news for old people...

"Many thoughtful people don't yet realise what a great deal a legacy can do for old folk battling with loneliness and bad housing."

I have seen what Help the Aged achieve at first hand. They are promoting the building of simple flats designed for the needs of the elderly. Old people find friendliness and help at hand.

Think what you can achieve with even a legacy of a few hundred pounds. £200 provides £4,000 extra accommodation (it releases loans) that continues your good work for years to come. A large estate can actually save considerable duty with a legacy.

Please consider leaving some more happiness behind you.

Commemorate someone dear to you now. £150 names a flat, or inscribes a name on the Founder's Plaque of a new Day Centre. £250 names a double flat.

Please write for further information to: The Hon. Treasurer, the Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room 12L, 8 Denman Street, London W1A 2AP.

BANKRUPTCY:

EUROPE'S LATEST COMMON DENOMINATOR.

Industrial bankruptcy, now an all too familiar word throughout Europe, has been steadily increasing over the last eighteen months and, current forecasts accepted, shows little sign of slowing down.

In tomorrow's issue, Europa investigates the many causes that have led to the alarming increase in bankruptcies and discusses what can be done by businessmen and banks alike to reverse the trend.

There will also be an exclusive interview with two of Europe's leading trade unionists. Monsieur Maire, general secretary of the Confédération Française Démocratique du Travail, and Herr Vetter, head of the Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund, put forward their views on Europe's economic plight and whether there is worse still to come.

In addition, Europa examines the progress professional bodies are making in the move towards mutual recognition of degrees and diplomas within the EEC.

Every month, Europa deals with economic, financial and industrial affairs and allied social questions, as they affect the total European business community.

Europa is written by the most respected writers in Europe, and is published simultaneously with the newspapers they represent: *The Times* (London), *Le Monde* (Paris), *La Stampa* (Turin), and *Die Welt* (Hamburg). Articles are up-to-date and translated into the mother-tongue immediately before publication in each of the four countries.

Altogether, Europa is a unique newspaper, the only one written exclusively for, and by, Europeans.

Make sure you read it by buying *The Times* tomorrow.

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Europa

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AN LEAGUE
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3. Liverpool
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5. Chelsea
6. Newcastle
7. Everton
8. Manchester City
9. Aston Villa
10. West Ham
11. Ipswich
12. Norwich
13. Derby
14. Nottingham Forest
15. Leeds
16. Sheffield Wednesday
17. Middlesbrough
18. Stoke
19. Burnley
20. Preston
21. Huddersfield
22. Blackburn
23. Bradford
24. Luton
25. Charlton
26. Reading
27. Shrewsbury
28. Exeter
29. Yeovil
30. Barnet

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29. Yeovil
30. Barnet



Taylor, arms raised, and Jennings, West Ham's new recruits, salute the second goal at Wembley.

equally important events at the other which underlined the difference one had sensed—but hoped would not be revealed before the start. Seven minutes after the interval, with Fulham calling the tune, Mitchell dummied swiftly past Lock to Mullery's show in cut free and shot hard inside the near post. Day, however, dived classically to turn away the ball finely for a corner.

A quarter of an hour from the end with Fulham throwing all their forces forward in a last act at rescue, Mitchell again broke free, this time on the left. But once more Day advancing to narrow the angle, blocked the shot. The ball ran free to a West Ham man and Fulham at the end were

thwarted. Here lay the difference—here was class goalkeeping: here was the rub of the green.

So ended one of the friendliest, well-mannered cup finals for many a day. Not once was the primer needed on the pitch nor were there any unseemly scuffles for throws in or pinching of territory at free kicks. In that sense the whole affair was a healthy advertisement for the game and an example to others. Both clubs, especially their managers, are to be congratulated.

If there was anything lacking, it was a positive end product until Taylor stole the scene—especially in the case of Fulham. Both sides played so much attractive possession football up to the penalty

Richmond keep opponents under full pressure

By Peter West

Apart from a spot of bother in the semi-final round against Blackheath, who led them 10-0, Richmond have no great difficulty in retaining the Middlesex sevens title at Twickenham on Saturday. A year ago, they routed London 23-1 in the final by 24-16. Now, with six of the team, they beat Loughborough Colleges in the last round by 24-8.

Thus their success yet again was founded not on especially glamorous individuals but on a steady tactics, an excellent team bleed and the ability, even without the ball, to keep the opposition under pressure. Bucknall, Hearn and Hadman between them paraded all the virtues needed for forwards in the sevens game: speed, strength, a good eye, and a scrum half—finished as the day's leading try scorer, with five, and the stand off, Lavery, acquired most points.

The decisive game in the top half of the draw was probably the quarter final in which Loughborough Colleges ran up 14 points against London Welsh 1 before the powerful Colleges wing, contributed significantly to this victory with a try from a goal in which he was not involved. The challenge of Rees, the British Lion.

I suspect that Orrell potentially were the best team in the competition, but they came sadly unstuck in the quarter-final from

the moment when a splendid tackle by Byrne, the Blackheath stand-off half, stopped Phillips from scoring a second try. Little the Orrell stand-off, tried to do too much on his own.

Old Emanuel deserve kudos for first forcing out Roselyn Park in a preliminary game and then disposing of London Irish. But in their quarter-final, against Richmond, they were penalised for a swift of possession and went down by 24-11, the same score by which Richmond had beaten Essex.

French, of the Wasps, Willis, the St Luke's wing, Turner, the Coventry and England Under-23 wing, were some of the players briefly to catch the eye. I was particularly impressed by the running of French, who looks a good centre in the making.

O'Hanlon, Bucknall, Maxwell (2) and Boulton were the Richmond (2) in the final round. Lavery kicking a couple of goals, Ray, a strong centre, and Oliver, a speedy hooker, got tries for Loughborough Colleges.

SEMI-FINAL ROUND: Loughborough Colleges 14; London Welsh 1; Old Emanuel 6; Richmond 24; Roselyn Park 1; London Irish 1; Coventry 1; Essex 1.

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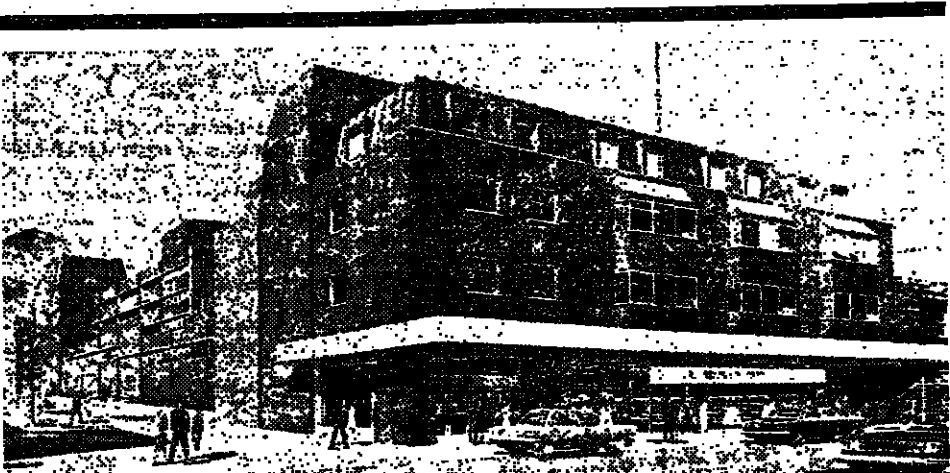
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An architect's perspective of the £1.5m scheme for High Street, Uzbridge.

In spite of the general economic uncertainties, some developers are going ahead with schemes designed to keep the property pot boiling, even if not on a particularly large scale. Work has started in Uzbridge on a scheme costing £1,500,000. It is being carried out by David Charles in partnership with the London Borough of Hillingdon, to designs by Shugler, Risdon and Associates.

The scheme, which is at the junction of High Street and St Georges Road, comprises a supermarket for J. Sainsbury, with a sales area of 20,000 sq ft, about 14,000 sq ft of offices and showrooms and a multi-storey park for 474 cars. It is expected that the offices will be ready for letting in February, 1977. The scheme was acquired for David Charles by Herring Daw, who negotiated the ground lease terms with the London Borough of Hillingdon.

The agents, who arranged for the disposal of the supermarket, are also handling the letting of the offices. Another scheme just announced concerns the station yard at Balstead Essex, where Link Home Investments, of Brentwood, is planning a mixed development on which work is planned to start later this year. Designed by Lindy Austin and Partners, the development is in Bridge Street and will provide about 15,000 sq ft of shops at ground level, with 7,000 sq ft of storage above, and 4,000 sq ft of offices.

There will also be a small residential content. The building will be set back from Bridge Street to form a landscaped pedestrian precinct, and the frontage of the shops will be arched. Completion is planned for next year.

In Newcastle upon Tyne, Capital and Counties Property Co has now announced a more detailed timetable for its large regional shopping centre at Eldon Square. It is expected to start functioning early next year, when the first phase will be opened. Shop premises will start to be handed over to tenants for fitting out from the middle of this year. This phase includes five large space users, the new Corporation Market and about 70 shops.

The second phase, which in-

Developers keep the pot boiling

cludes about forty shops and a new store for Boots, is planned to open next summer. The Bainbridge three-storey department store, and the City Recreation Centre being built above the first phase to complete the development, are expected to be opened in the following autumn. Letting is being handled by Capital and Counties.

A mixed office and residential scheme, to be known as Grosvenor House, has been started in Whitechapel Road, Clifton, Bristol, by the Comben Group, who are the developers and builders. Scheduled for completion next summer it will provide 13,350 sq ft of air-conditioned offices and 10 luxurious two-bedroom flats. Lalonde Bros and Parham, of Bristol, are letting agents for these offices and Peter R. Soper and Partners, are letting agents for the flats.

A new development in Hull by French Kier Developments is expected to be completed in August. The building is on the corner of Alfred Gelder Street and Manor Street, opposite the Guildhall. To be known as Essex House, it will provide 70,600 sq ft of net lettable office space on 10 floors. Design was by Wilson, Mason and Partners, and letting is through J. Trevor and Sons, of London, and B. L. Wells, of Hull. It is understood to be more than £2 a sq ft. About 16,000 sq ft has been let to Yorkshire Water Authority.

Just completed is Emerson House, in Eccles, Lancashire, the second phase of an office development by Odeco Developments, a member of the Emerson Holdings Group. A 10-storey building, it has a total

of 48,600 sq ft, of which the two top floors amounting to about 5,700 sq ft have been let to the Lankro Group, manufacturers of chemicals. The developers are offering the building at a basic rent of £2 a sq ft, carpeted, or at £2.25 a sq ft fully fitted out, except for furniture. Letting is through Herring Daw, of London, and Rackind, Gibson and Co, of Manchester. Orbit House, the first phase of the scheme, a similar adjacent block, is fully let.

Another of these new office buildings aimed at the London decentralisation market is St James's, in Upperton Road, Eastbourne, just completed by Beckenham Land, Ltd. It has a gross area of about 63,663 sq ft, with parking for 56 cars and is within five minutes' walk of the town centre. Rent is expected to be more than £2 a sq ft. Letting is through Debenham Tewson and Chinnocks, of London.

Office renovations on the Continent continue to come along. Work on two seventeenth-century canal-side merchants' houses at 636/700 Keizersgracht, Amsterdam, has been completed by Dyeright, Ltd, in conjunction with the Pension Fund Property Unit Trust, of St James's, London.

The work was carried out in consultation with the Monument Commission of the Netherlands. Many of the historical and architectural features are retained. About a third of the building has been pre-let, but 930 sq m are available at DfT 170,000 a year. Letting is through Debenham Tewson and Chinnocks and Knight Frank and Rutley.

The London Borough of Haringey has acquired Heenan Beddow Development's new building just off the North Circular Road, at Southgate. It is a warehouse of 122,145 sq ft and a three-storey office and warehouse block of 26,305 sq ft. The site covers more than five acres. The building is to be converted into the largest polytechnic in north London. The price was about £3.5m. Hampton and Sons and Keith Cardale, Groves and Co acted for Heenan Beddow.

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Secretarial and General Appointments also on page 25

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Alan Blyth

"I fell as many times as I succeeded when backing young artists. You just hope that your judgment will be right." Ian Hunter was telling me about his life as an impresario and as a festival organizer. He has been running Harold Holt for 25 years, he has worked at Glyndebourne, run festivals such as Edinburgh, Brighton, Hong Kong and City of London—and is now producing one at Malvern. He brought the Berlin Philharmonic here last year, brings the Philadelphia to the Festival Hall on Wednesday, and plans to bring the Vienna Phil next ("a risk of £30,000 to be recouped in two nights"). No wonder he is sometimes called the high priest among concert promoters, the mandarin of the concert circuit.

It's pleasant when someone like Barenboim, whom you have backed since he was a boy, really succeeds. That makes up for the other times when you don't win. Now I have faith, among the younger artists, in the violinist Nigel Kennedy and the pianist Jeremy Adkin—who's only 12. Once I have that

faith in someone, I try to support them to the hilt, but of course in the end they have to prove themselves.

"I don't have contracts with my people, because if they don't want to go on with you there's no point in trying to hold them. Our relationship has to be one of trust. Of course, artists can be difficult. When you deal with them you just have to use tact and common sense. You must be relaxed, because confrontation is the worst possible thing. There must be elasticity in the relationship. A sense of humour and a sense of style on both sides are a help too."

Mr Hunter's upbringing was musical; he was a pupil of Sir Donald Tovey at Edinburgh. "I told him I wanted to be a conductor," he said. I must give some practical advice to Mr Fritz Busch at Glyndebourne, suggesting I should write a John Christie mentioning his name. Christie wrote me that he was going on my letter to Rudolf Bing. I was invited down, and I spent two years with Busch until the war came, also working with him on the Continent.

He spent seven years in the Army, then returned to Glyndebourne and joined Bing at the Edinburgh Festival. "Much of what I know I learnt from that extraordinary man. His best advice, where festivals are concerned, was never to go into a committee unprepared: you must be able to manage its members. I ran Edinburgh myself from 1950 to 1955, and joined Bing as managing director in 1953. Then I was on my way."

On that way he has become well aware of the pleasures and problems of running festivals. If money can be said to be the root of all evil in other contexts, it is the *sine qua non* of putting on a festival. Over the years Mr Hunter has come to know where to raise his pounds and pence, how to relate the cash to a commitment to artistic truth. "Money is not the be-all and end-all of running a festival, but its presence obviously makes the marriage that much happier. If you're assured of proper support, you can do so much more interesting things."

"Morally speaking, you must balance your budget and not run your backers into debt. However, occasionally you have to be unorthodox if you're going to create any worthwhile artistic event. Bing used to say that you first draw up your programme. You then present the budget to your board and tell the members that they must find the money because that's what it's going to cost."

What about local support? "Well, you go to the local corporation, and Brighton, for instance, have been very helpful, to prime and pump. If you have the support of the local authority, you have the imprimatur of the establishment, and then you can seek the help of business concerns, who for a comparatively small expenditure can gain kudos, help their image. And of course, you must have the Arts Council's encouragement. Since I began, they have always supported the festivals with which I've been associated."

What about the artistic side? "Forward planning is the road to success there. Musicians,

in particular, get booked up these days very far in advance. Of course, it helps when they're my artists. I make no secret of the fact that I have fifty or more leading instrumentalists, singers and conductors, and some of them naturally appear at the festivals with which I'm associated. Without being condescending, I can say we have artists like Mazlowsky, Piatigorsky, Arrau and Perahia, and these are the kind of people audiences, on the whole, want to hear. Besides I meet them frequently, and they're always throwing up good ideas for festivals. Several are very interested in Malvern. Although we always use many distinguished musicians drawn from any source, I can much more easily persuade my own to support an unknown enterprise, and when you have, say, a Menuhin or a Barenboim agreeing to appear at a festival, they're most interested in Malvern because of the Elgar connexion—you can manage to get practically anyone to come."

What is the justification of

festivals? "I believe a festival isn't an end in itself. If successful, it acts as a catalyst to the local artistic scene, and thereby justifies itself. About themes, I'm not so sure. Does anyone follow them through? This year at Brighton we have chosen 'The Grand Tour' as the subject, which is delightfully all-embracing, but Brighton in itself is a permanent theme."

He constantly worried about his acknowledged duty to promote new music. "I have this responsibility, and I feel that I'm not doing enough. If I'm told by a committee that a new piece in it, can't I honestly contradict them and say that they won't? I can only reply that I'm not doing enough. On the other hand, when the concert takes place and perhaps fifty people come, one wonders if it was worthwhile. Even with the support it gets from the BBC and the media in general, new music still fails to break through to a big public. We need to experiment with new promotional ideas and learn from others."

ND BALLET
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Hayley Mills
in comedy
Hayley Mills, Peter Donat and Leigh Lawson head the cast of this comedy, *A Touch of Spring*, by Samuel Taylor, which opens at the Comedy Theatre on May 13, with a preview on May 12. The play is directed by Allan Davis, with settings by Carmen Dillon and lighting by Michael Northen.

A Journey to London

Greenwich Theatre

Jeremy Kingston

Venue built this thirteenth century unfinished at his death. The text breaks in Act 4 at the end of the mumbull politician's speech—or perhaps still in the middle of it, one cannot tell. The only indication of denouement to come lies in a note to Colley Cibber about the spendthrift Lady Lovelace who is turned out of her husband's house. Given a fashionably sentimental ending by Cibber (with Lady Lovelace reformed) the play found public favour in the 1720s but has languished since.

James Saunders has added a new ending as well as a vast amount of new middle, and the result opens the latest Greenwich triptych of plays. Next comes one entirely by Saunders, followed by *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*.

There are two lines of plot in the original. In the first, a country baronet, newly elected to Parliament, arrives in town with his bumptious family. Before they are settled, the baronet's mother's dubious lodgings get his goose pie, has been flayed by artful dodgers and their coach and six (four geldings, two cart-horses) lousily rammed. Saunders adds some of the same to the plot, but effect with the character of the noble baronet, Sir Francis Headpiece, rabbiting on about the dignity of Parliament and voting for the Jacobites by mistake. Roger Brierley, lean and gaunt, goes on my letter to Mother's dubious lodgings get his goose pie, has been flayed by artful dodgers and their coach and six (four geldings, two cart-horses) lousily rammed. Saunders adds some of the same to the plot, but effect with the character of the noble baronet, Sir Francis Headpiece, rabbiting on about the dignity of Parliament and voting for the Jacobites by mistake. 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It is the Europeans who need us inside the EEC

There are half a dozen immediate reasons for not getting out of the EEC. The most pressing is that it would make life very uncomfortable indeed, at a time when we depend heavily on money borrowed abroad to buy our daily bread, if foreign lenders lost confidence in the future of this country and withdrew their funds. There is little doubt that they would do so if we decided to leave the EEC in June.

But that is not, in the end, what I regard as the most compelling reason for choosing to stay in it. It is, rather, that I think the judgment of the foreigners would be right. The essential question for the foreigner and for the British voter in the referendum is, in this matter, the same. It is briefly: what are the chances of Britain becoming a normal Western industrial country, capable of producing year after year a substantial additional amount of wealth for each of its citizens?

Britain is, and has been for some time past, the odd nation out, notably and consistently less productive not merely than the most successful of our competitors but than the average of the industrial nations of the West. The point is overlooked by many people here, but abroad there is no doubt in the minds of those who are after the "normalization" of Britain that the odds in favour of it will be sufficiently reduced with Britain outside the EEC. The reason is not that they think in a simple-minded way that high economic growth is, like disease, catching. What they recognize is, first, that to change Britain into a high-growth society will take time, and secondly, that the process of changing itself Britain will very probably have to do a number of awkward things and will need a lot of active tolerance from friends among the

advanced industrial countries in the Western world. There is more chance of securing this as a member of the EEC.

It is a little frightening to hear the opponents of membership arguing as if this problem could be safely ignored. One group seems to contend that there is nothing much wrong with Britain which a bit of free trade with Western Europe would not cope with (Mr Douglas Jay). But there is also the totally different view, of the opponents who identify with Mr Benn, that coping with Britain's problems (which are seen simply as a local variant of the failure of capitalism) requires this country to cut itself so far as possible from foreign entanglements.

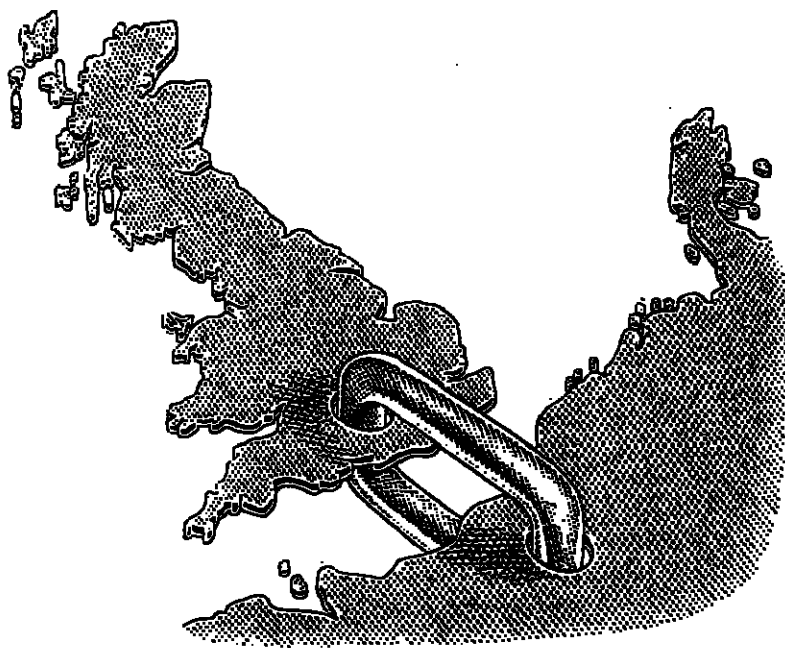
A free trade area, for example, would force this country to abide by certain rules limiting subsidies to industry—so there must be less free trade, not more. This variant of the siege economy seems to overlook the effects on the foreigner altogether; yet he must provide the wherewithal to invest in this country. If this is not to be financed by the only alternative way, a drop sustained over several years in the British worker's living standards—and he is supposed to accept without demur our restrictions on foreign trade while we continue to sell abroad one-third or more of our total factory output.

I happen to think that we probably shall have to adopt trade and other restrictions in the course of putting the national economy right. Paradoxically it may seem this will be easier to do as a member of the EEC, at any rate if our aim is to escape retaliation and secondly, that the process of endeavour, than outside it.

What will be essential in the circumstances that I envisage, involving a deliberate effort to hold down imports below the

level which they would reach in a sustained investment boom, is to avoid both the appearance and the mentality of a siege economy. Our chief need will be to convince the international community that it ought to accept our restrictions and not impede our trade. And the fact that these arrangements will have to have been negotiated through the EEC will provide a guarantee (a) that they are directed to a defined purpose and are the minimum restrictions required for the long-term

of International Affairs.



Bill Sanderson

health of the British economy, not the maximum desired by traders looking for protection, and (b) that they really are designed to be temporary and subject to effective surveillance.

By the same token Britain as a member of the EEC will have a much better chance of obtaining the massive international loans that we shall need in order to lift the level of industrial investment above the average European level—to make up for the years of lagging—and to hold it there.

North Sea oil is not going to get us out of this problem. If we go for a big programme of industrial investment at home we shall be involved in a substantial and continuing balance of payments deficit and we shall not look like an attractive international borrower.

Our membership of the EEC will not just be a means of securing the capital that we shall need from our European neighbours; it will also be the backing for our general creditworthiness to the world at large.

The EEC as I see it is therefore both a shield behind which we can reorganize our own affairs and a surety for others. We shall need both because the process of profound economic reforms will surely not be accomplished without domestic social conflicts here. Some of them may well be sharp and are likely, in the short run, to damage our balance of payments further. They may also compel the Government to introduce more direct restrictions, eg, on the flight of British capital abroad.

But the earth should I suppose that this active cooperation would be forthcoming from members of the EEC? Would they not, first frustrate us in our efforts at national reorganization, and then exclude us when we became too awkward? I think not. I cannot prove it, but I was greatly impressed by the evidence of the recent renegotiation of Britain's terms of membership.

The other members could have got every single practical thing that they might have wanted—including free trade with Britain—just by telling the British to go away and then negotiate from the outside. Instead, they fussed and worried and conceded because, simply, Britain is one of the three great nations of Western Europe; it is wanted inside in order to give the balance, as well as body, to the EEC. Rightly so.

But having Britain inside, they do not want a partner which holds the EEC back by its relative poverty and its inability to grow. They will be ready to bear a great deal in order to remedy that. That at any rate is a bet that is worth making; I can detect no better one in sight.

Next: William Pickles on why he will vote "no" in the Referendum.
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Hongkong's cluster of skyscrapers, with the inevitable photogenic junk in the harbour.

Why bustling Hongkong has no time for the past

The Queen yesterday became the first reigning monarch to visit Hongkong. In only a quarter of a century the colony has changed from an entrepot for foreign trade to a thriving centre ranking seventeenth in the world's major exporters.

The Queen may find that her first impressions of what Hongkong looks like conform, at least to some extent, with her expectations. The cluster of skyscrapers on steep escarpments around the dramatic landlocked harbour—with the inevitable photogenic junk in the foreground—is so unique that it is a unique commodity, an Asian economy that has successfully achieved viability without nationhood.

But to me it is the people, rich and poor, that makes Hongkong. It is their vigour and courage, and their gentility, that give it its extraordinary capacity for bettering themselves and their children, that makes their city throbb with life.

Though Hongkong was born in 1841, as a new settlement under British flag, there are few visible signs of its 134 years' history. Hongkong covers up its past fast—a city that says a great deal about where it is from than about where it is purposefully going.

The big change began in the post-war years when a flood of immigrants from the neighbouring mainland coincided with the United Nations embargo on trade with China. The population expanded rapidly at the very time that the entrepot trade on which the colony had depended came to a standstill.

Modern industrialized Hongkong was born out of sheer necessity. Since then it has followed, much the same industrial path as Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. Like Japan, Hongkong has found low cost competitors hard of its heels steadily forcing it out of the low skill, low pay, less mechanized industries.

It has evolved and diversified into a modern economy, with forms of production of high quality goods, with increasingly high rates of capital input, and an increasingly skilled and more highly paid labour force, now earning wages second only to Japan's.

In spite of its natural beauty the blunders on the life of Hongkong cover a wide spectrum, from inadequate housing to excessive crime and corruption. These blunders, scattered in many other cities, but in Hongkong they stem from the basic problem of an influx of people so vast as to have swamped the resources of any government.

In 1966 the population was 600,000. It is now 1,350,000, despite a birth-rate of only 19.7 per thousand. The Hongkong people and their government have responded to this pressure of people desperately and consistently, and with increasing and striking success.

A few random facts speak for themselves. In 1966 the population was 600,000. It is now 1,350,000, despite a birth-rate of only 19.7 per thousand. The Hongkong people and their government have responded to this pressure of people desperately and consistently, and with increasing and striking success.

The Queen is visiting Hongkong during the worst recession it has known for many years. She will meet all conditions of people from all nations to have been met in the past. She will find many signs of pessimism about the future.

Sir Murray Maclehoze
The author is Governor of Hongkong.
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Stamped in silver, 52 regiments that marched into history

Thirty years ago today, as the British Army ranged virtually at will through northern Germany, came the momentous signal: "Cancel all offensive operations forthwith and march fire with effect from 0800 hours." Few people could have foreseen that it was to be the final appearance in the global warfare of the full muster of British regiments as they had existed for two or three hundred years.

Among them was the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, whose second battalion had, like so many other county units, fought from D-day through to the ultimate objective, which in this case was the city of Bremen. Seven years ago the regiment disappeared to become part of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

With the years, the rattle of musketry and the hindrance from Westminister or ties to Dublin. With 55 per cent of the popular vote and 47 of the 78 seats in the convention, the "loyalist" coalition has greater popular support than any British party has enjoyed at Westminster since before the Second World War.

Within the coalition, William Craig's Vanguard Party, and Dr Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists each made substantial gains. Vanguard doubled its representation by comparison with the 1973 Ulster Assembly election, and Dr Paisley's party went from eight to 13 seats.

The third "loyalist" group, the Official Unionist Party, fought as a united party for the first time in a decade. By united in opposition to the

British Government's preferred policy for the future of Northern Ireland, the Official Unionists more than doubled their popular vote and increased their representation by more than half.

In June, 1973, Brian Faulkner's wing of the Unionist Party won 29 per cent of the popular vote and 23 assembly seats by blurring the line between the traditional Unionist desire for rule by a pro-British and therefore Protestant majority, and some form of power-sharing between Protestants and Catholics.

Mr Faulkner's role as leader of last year's short-lived power-sharing Executive made his position clear; it also cost him the leadership of the Official Unionists. Contesting this election under the power-sharing banner of the Unionist Party of Northern Ireland cost Faulkner's group the vote of three-quarters of those who supported them two years ago. The U.P.N. polled five seats.

Mr Faulkner himself finished a humiliating seventh in first preference votes in his constituency of South Down.

The Alliance Party, which has a long history of power-sharing between Protestants and Catholics and maintaining ties with Britain, held the eight seats it won in 1973. Its votes rose slightly.

ULSTER VOTES

Party	1975 Convention		Change since 1973 assembly	
	Votes %	Seats	Votes %	Seats
Loyalist	54.7	47	+22.1	+20
Faulkner-Unionists	7.7	5	+21.6	+18
Alliance	9.8	8	+0.6	0
SDLP	23.7	17	+0.5	-2
Republicans/Nats	2.5	0	-0.7	0
N.I. Labour	1.4	1	-1.2	0

The Northern Ireland Labour Party retains one member in the new Ulster convention but its vote fell to 1.4 per cent, after shifting to a policy aggressively close to that of the "loyalists".

The Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) has its share of the vote rise by 0.5 per cent but it dropped down two seats to 17. The party's support for power sharing under British auspices was bitterly attacked by Republicans whose boycott campaign cost the SDLP seats in Armagh and Mid-Ulster and prevented gains in predominantly Catholic constituencies such as West Belfast and South Tyrone.

SDLP candidates in those areas complained of intimidation by armed Republicans and "poll watchers".

transferred to "loyalist" candidates.

Catholic supporters of the SDLP showed some readiness to transfer votes to Alliance candidates; this accounted for Alliance Party victories in at least three constituencies. Since two Alliance's right convention delegates are Catholics, the party has an immediate political interest in bridge-building between the two communities.

The SDLP has two Protestant as well as Catholic representatives, but the SDLP vote comes overwhelmingly from the Catholic community. The "loyalist" benefit electorally by concentrating upon Protestant support; they have won about five seats of the vote of the majority community.

Altogether, the well-defined positions of voters and parties make the outcome of constitutional convention uncertain.

The "loyalists" can carry any policy they wish by a majority of 47 to 31. On a range of issues, such as the maintenance of the British link and policing, Faulkner Unionists and Alliance representatives are likely to vote with the "loyalists". When it comes to controversial measures will be divided 67 to 17. There are even issues such as continued British financial assistance, where all

parties are likely to vote together in a unanimous expression of Ulster interest.

In order to avoid political isolation, the SDLP will need to press its demand for seats in government and an Irish dimension in such a way as to ensure Alliance and U.P.N. support. In this way, minority views would be backed by three parties.

For the moment, the British Government is enigmatic about the minimum amount of power sharing that it would accept as part of a package settlement relieving Westminster of its temporary responsibilities for direct rule in Northern Ireland. It is currently pledged to some kind of shared responsibility for the minority. But it cannot secure stable government in Ulster without the participation of the minority as well as the majority returned in last Thursday's election.

If the constitutional convention produces conflicting majority and minority proposals for Ulster's future, then British politicians, like their Ulster counterparts, will have hard decisions to make about which side they are on in a province where governing without consensus remains the rule.

Prof Richard Rose
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The Times Diary

Looking back to the good old days

sugar agreement, a model of its kind.

At his subsequent press conference he was at it again. He said he had been to as many of those conferences as most of those present. He had known Bishop Muzorewa a long time. He looked back to his talks with Ian Smith on board two warships, and to the 1965 Commonwealth conference at which he accepted the principle of no independence before majority rule.

I have never known anyone boast about his age so.

Replay

It was odd to see Sir Donald Maitland sitting on Harold Wilson's immediate right at his press conference last week. For this was the position Sir Donald used to occupy in relation to Edward Heath when he was the Prime Minister's press secretary from 1970.

Sir Donald is now the deputy under-secretary at the Foreign Office in charge of economic affairs, and thus he has been heavily involved in the Wilson plan on commodities. A man well known to reporters since his days as chief spokesman at the Foreign Office, he has a recent history of being buffeted unwittingly by political changes.

Heath took him from the Foreign Office to Downing Street and then appointed him ambassador to the United Nations. Yet he had been in the job for less than a year when Labour won the election in February, 1974 and he was brought back to make way for Lord Richard. Now the commodities plan brings him into the political limelight again, and he is likely to stay there if reports are true that he will shortly be appointed ambassador to the European Communities in Brussels.

"What was more you going to vote - until you realised that the supporters were..."

seemed to offer a suitably broad cultural spread. Distilling the advice of locals and taxi drivers, we made for Red Hill Road where, we were told, some of the safer night spots are to be found.

We were rather early, and the first place we visited was empty and dull. Moving on, we came to a place with few men in it, some quite apathetic hostesses and a disco dancer wriggling to the loud recorded music.

After an hour or so a projector was brought in, a small screen placed at the opposite end of the room from the dancer, and we braced ourselves fearfully, thinking the entertainment might begin to get over-explicit. Yet our fears proved unjustified as, with the music still playing and the dancer still dancing, the films began.

The first was a home movie of two cars moving quite slowly round a race track. It lasted about 10 minutes and was followed by an aged black and white silent called *The Revenge of the Creature*, about a scaly sea monster captured in the Amazon who escaped from an aquarium and provoked terror among the popu-

lace, though causing little apparent damage.

The next was another home movie—a record of a holiday at Niagara Falls, opening with a panoramic view of what might have been downtown Buffalo in the rain. Either they thought we were polemicists, or other people's night life is hard to penetrate.

Here is a nicely baffling statistic from last week's Observer Magazine: "Well over half all 11-year-olds have a reading age of a child of nine-and-a-half or less."

I see that the British Museum is to mount next year an exhibition of Thracian treasures from Bulgaria. I hope that the Thracian antiquities will be more accessible than the Egyptian ones.

The guide book said there was a Thracian tomb near Pomorie, a few miles from Sunny Beach. Moreover, it was open to the public. So I hired a car and drove to Pom-

orie, where I asked for more precise directions at the tourist office.

The woman there, the English well enough, but Thracian tomb was open in that part of the town. And it is one of those places at which, if you do not understand it, there is not a stab. After making a cup of comic misadventure, I drew the bee-hive tomb, and comprehended the Thracian tomb.

The tomb was behind a field of corn. When we arrived we found it locked with a note on the door, carrying that day's news. From my pigskin Bulgarian, it seemed to say that the caretaker was ill or otherwise unable to attend. So we climbed up to the top of the mound, took in the view and resolved to return the following week.

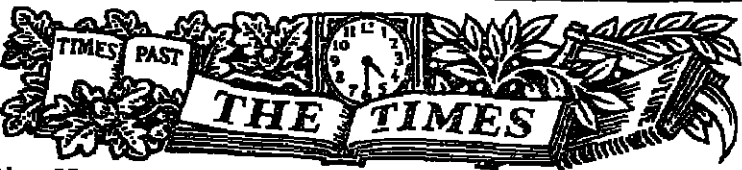
The next time we went on the bus. After a half-hour delay for a puncture, we discovered how to pay the fare but not how to make the bus stop at the desired place. We oversaw the target by a couple of miles and ended up in the centre of Pomorie, where we persuaded a

reluctant taxi-driver to drive us to the tomb.

He had turned round and roared away before we had time to discover that it was still closed, still with the same notice, a light shade of brown, attached to the door. A local rustic, sitting in the shade of a tree, smiled and shrugged.

He had her shoulders in the way which does not require the elaboration of language. The gesture had an air of finality and I suspect the tomb might still be closed, still with the same notice on the door. I anticipate less difficulties at the British Museum, and I hope to be among the first in the queue.

Those who claim that the famed German cleanliness is more to do with the house than the body will find his view confirmed in the latest dental research in West Germany. This shows that only one citizen in two gets a personal tooth brush, that one in three never cleans his teeth at all and only one in nine bothers to brush them once a day.



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DOOMED BEFORE THE START

It is not a question of whether the Ulster Convention will fail to agree in the task it has been set, but of when and in what circumstances.

A majority of seats, derived from a majority of votes, is held by a coalition whose members have said in the clearest way that they will not share power (in the Westminster sense of the term) with politicians whom they regard as republicans, that is to say with the Social Democratic and Labour Party. That party is the largest minority group in the convention and has the right to speak as the elected voice of the Roman Catholics of Northern Ireland. Its leaders have said with similar clarity that they will agree to nothing less than places in a provincial government. The United Kingdom Government has asked the convention for proposals which are acceptable to the representatives of both communities. Clearly it will not get them. The representatives of neither are in a mood to compromise about anything so important as the nature of the state. With the realism by which he courts unpopularity in Irish republican circles, Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien, a member of the Dublin Cabinet, has given his verdict on this election: power sharing is out. Agreed.

The United Ulster Unionist Coalition still falls short of the popular majority the old Unionist Party had before it was broken by Westminster. (It has also won more seats in the con-

vention than its first preference votes entitle it to on strictly proportional principles: STV has not performed the function of patronizing the centre in the political conditions of Northern Ireland.) But there is no doubt that it dominates the talking, as distinct from the shooting, gallery of Ulster politics.

Though clear and unanimous in its views about enforced power sharing, its solidarity cannot be assumed when the consequences of refusing that fence come to be enacted. Some, of whom Mr Enoch Powell has made himself spokesman, would gladly be reconciled to Cabinet government and legislative authority from London, provided that were put on a more regular basis. Some still believe in Stormont Redivivus, and polish the weapon of the political strike for use against an unsympathetic but (they suppose) ultimately weak British government. Some lean towards independence as preferable, for their brand of Irishness, to having the government of Northern Ireland adulterated by republicans or pass permanently to Englishmen. There is also the little matter of power sharing within the coalition itself. Triumvirates seldom last, and in the triumvirate of Mr West, Mr Paisley and Mr Craig it is easy to spot Levidus.

But first the members of the UUUC must decide their strategy in the convention itself. If the judgement prevails that Ulster's chronic dissension will respond now only to shock treatment, they may be inclined to use their majority ruthlessly to vote

through a scarcely disguised version of Stormont, with the threat of strike sanctions in the background. That would precipitate a clash with London. It was a political error to abolish Stormont, to put in the bulldozers when the place was capable of rehabilitation. But having been abolished, it cannot now be recreated. Too much has happened in the interval, including the implantation of large expectations in the minds of Roman Catholic representatives.

So that convention strategy would either come to a dead end, or if it were backed by public disorder, by intimations of ungovernability on any other terms, it would promote the possibility that the dominant community in Northern Ireland would be judged to have voided, by its own actions, the constitutional guarantees which it has sought and been given.

Alternatively the UUUC may decide to play for time. Gunmen permitting, they can afford to be generous about less essential matters. They could offer entrenched civil rights, a large though subordinate role in public administration for representatives of the minority, even some legislative blocking device. And they could use the language of conciliation. They would then appear to many who do not now see them so as having offered as much as reasonable politicians in the British tradition can be expected to offer to fundamentalist opponents. That would put the Westminster government on a more awkward spot. It would attract Conservative sympathy and might break bipartisanship, to the short-term advantage of the UUUC.

HONEST BUT NOT REASONABLE INTENT

The law has always had difficulty in dealing with the offence of rape. In most cases which come to trial, where the defendant has pleaded not guilty, the issue revolves round whether or not the woman consented to intercourse. In the majority of cases there are no witnesses to the act complained of. The jury has to decide between the evidence of the complainant that it was against her will, and that of the defendant that it was with her consent. The House of Lords has now held, by a three to two majority, that if the defendant genuinely believes that the woman consented to intercourse, even if that belief is unjustified and unreasonable, he is entitled to be acquitted of rape.

The rationale behind the decision is that rape, like most common law offences, requires the defendant to have intended to commit the crime. Rape being defined as intercourse without consent, a genuine belief that consent was present would vitiate the criminal intent and result in an acquittal, the majority of the law lords said. This does not accord with common sense. Until this decision was given, it had been generally accepted that the belief in the woman's consent had to be reasonable. In ruling otherwise, the law lords have been unduly legalistic.

In practice, however, the decision is not, as has been claimed,

a licence to rape. It will probably make very little difference to a jury's verdict. The defendant will still have to show that his belief in the woman's consent was honestly held. It is unlikely that a jury would accept his version where the rest of the evidence suggests otherwise. In the end most trials will still turn on whether the jury believes the defendant or the complainant.

Irrespective of the effect of the House of Lords' decision, the offence of rape ought to be scrutinized to see whether the law and procedure which govern it need to be changed. The assumptions on which the offence was originally based no longer necessarily apply. In some cases the woman has been partly to blame by cooperating to some extent in the man's advances. Nor is it uncommon for the woman to submit to being raped without strong resistance, for fear that the alternative would be a severe beating up or even death. In the United States women are being advised by various women's organizations to allow the unwanted intercourse as the lesser of two evils. Both the medical evidence and the issue of consent, are thereby made more difficult.

There is a case for ceasing to regard rape as a separate offence and including it instead in the category of assault, the penalties imposed varying in the usual way with the seriousness of the

offence. Even if rape were to be retained as a separate offence, serious consideration should be given to protecting the anonymity of complainants giving evidence in court. It seems that an increasing number of genuine victims of rape are not complaining of it to the police. This is partly a reaction to what is seen, and publicized, as the humiliation of the medical examination and the unpleasantness of the police interrogation. A more important reason is the fear of the publicity which many rape trials attract. In nearly all cases where the defendant has pleaded not guilty, his defence is that the woman consented to intercourse. This involves her being cross-examined in detail not only about the incident itself, but also, it may be, about her previous sexual experience and general moral character.

Since the recent dispute about anonymity in cases of blackmail and publication of the report on the law of contempt, the opinion is prevailing that it is better for parliament than for the judges to decide what categories of persons before the court deserve the protection of anonymity. Any legislative review of the offence of rape should include that question. A procedure which has the effect of persuading victims not to report crimes committed against them makes the law ineffective and distrusted.

David Wood

New Tory policy on lame ducks

In politics, too, necessity is the mother of invention. Of a sudden Mrs Thatcher, the Shadow Cabinet, and the Conservative rank and file have been compelled by inconvenient events, to fashion or accept a policy for rescuing industrial lame ducks, which they will have to live with for years to come. The threatened ruin of British Leyland and Mr Wilson's instant offer of compensation to the taxpayer have buttressed the wreck meant that the Conservative Front Bench could not wait upon the distinctive policy that the election of a new leader seemed to promise, or on a perfect compromise between the new Conservative thought and the old.

Before Whitehouse the Government will be asking Parliament's authority to pay out the first dollops to British Leyland, and almost certainly bringing in a short Bill, not unlike the Rolls-Royce Purchase Act, 1971.

No time was available to Mrs Thatcher and her closest colleagues in policymaking to break out of the 1970-74 box on to entirely new ground, for that would have involved the immediate conversion of a group of Heathmen who remain in the Shadow Cabinet to defend the Heath record and to raise questions about any excessively theoretic devotion to the free play of market forces.

So the compromise was born. The Conservative Party will support the Government in giving emergency aid to British Leyland, once and for all. Beyond that, the Government will not go until the realities of their future and come forward with a

recipe for success—a recipe involving rationalization, higher productivity, competitiveness, profitability, and fewer strikes. In return for taxpayers' money, there must be a recognition in BL from top to bottom, of market forces.

With a certain felicity Mrs Thatcher on Friday chose a visit to Derby, the principal home of Rolls-Royce in both its glory and its failure, to expound the new policy and the fact that she did so means that the die has been cast. She is not a leader who chops and changes. That gives her speech its importance. She has taken the two main strands of the Conservative argument about Government attitude to industry and women them together. The state will not stand aloof when major firms run into trouble, but the state as the good Samaritan will intervene only on conditions that emphasize Conservative rather than collectivist realities.

Mrs Thatcher accepted the need to build a prosperous and profitable motor industry in Britain, and accepted that BL "is of great significance to the economy as an employer and exporter". Hence, the Government has a duty to help BL find remedies for its own failures and to map a way of escape from its present difficulties. But "the basic principle of Government policy for BL, as for any other ailing firm, must be to find a recipe for success."

That, she went on, could best be achieved by providing specified assistance "sufficient to give BL time to reconstruct and reorganize in the light of realistic assessments for the years ahead of what can be sold and at what price." And the next step should be for BL's new management and the unions, together with financial and industrial advisers, "to work out alternative plans to restore the firm to a profitable basis."

Such plans must be elaborated in detail and be accompanied by firm undertakings from BL's employees to cooperate in a programme of rationalization and radical improvement in productivity and industrial relations. "The scale, character, and timing of any longer-term assistance which the Government might

recommend to Parliament can then be properly assessed."

It is worth noting that a compromise on such lines is consistent with the last words in what all Conservatives regard as the implausible Ryder report on BL's next decade: words on which Mr Wilson and the Government have laid no noticeable emphasis. "Before the various changes of new money are put into BL, there should be reviews of the contribution being made by BL's workers and management to the improvement of productivity and efficiency," states Sir Don Ryder.

The question is whether the Conservative case will work politically and industrially. Within the Conservative Party it will certainly avoid a party split. Members of the Shadow Cabinet, like Mr Whitelaw, Lord Carrington, Mr Prior, and Mr Gifford, and all those in the parliamentary party who march with them in spirit, could never espouse an undiluted theory of market forces with the accompanying logic of a disaster area in the west Midlands and many marginal seats thrown away. But they all respond to the argument that the taxpayer must not be milked to help those who will not help themselves.

In party terms, then, Mrs Thatcher and the Shadow Cabinet have almost certainly hit upon a compromise, under pressure of the parliamentary calendar, that will hold the party together and satisfy the divergent views of Conservatives, philosophical and electoral.

Mrs Thatcher and the Shadow Cabinet have established the axis of a respectable argument that, with steady and rational development, could command widespread support.

Yet is that enough? The root question remains whether in office a Conservative Government would have the will or the political authority to allow a dominant British firm to fail for want of state support. That was on more than one occasion the problem of Labour Governments, 1947-70, and of the Heath Government, 1970-74. That weakness of governments is Mr Tony Benn's strength when he commits himself to the preservation of jobs for the jobs' sake.

Case for a tariff on manufactures

From Lord Kahn and others

Sir, A number of economists seem, from their letters, to fail to see how a tariff on manufactures might help Britain out of its present economic difficulties.

It is common ground that the Budget needs to be tightened and that an incomes policy is needed to stop the wage-price spiral. The point at issue is how a reasonable level of employment can then be combined with a viable balance of foreign payments.

The main difference between devaluation, the conventional instrument for this task, and a tariff on manufactures, is that devaluation raises the price of foodstuffs and raw materials as well as manufactures, whereas the tariff raises the price of imported manufactures only. Since there are narrow limits to how far the price of food can be pushed up relative to wages without undermining incomes policy, it is unlikely that devaluation can be used on a sufficient scale—though it should be used as far as it can be.

A tariff on manufactures, introduced as an additional instrument, would reduce the pressure on incomes policy, so would increase the level of output and employment consistent with the required foreign balance.

Yours faithfully,
Kahn,
Emeritus Professor of Economics,
D. G. CLAMPENOWNE,
Professor of Economics,
ROBERT NIELD,
Professor at Economics,
University of Cambridge,
Faculty of Economics and Politics,
Sidwick Avenue,
Cambridge,
May 2.

Privacy of politicians

From Mrs Michael Foot

Sir, May I use your columns to indicate to the following delicate subject should be considered by the Press Council?

Suppose something went inexplicably wrong with the menstrual periods of a famous politician; alternatively suppose she gave her doctor evidence of an abnormal discharge, such symptoms might require immediate investigation in hospital. They could be of little consequence or they could be serious. If the latter, the public would learn soon enough; but, in any case, the consultant would not wish to alarm his patient before completion of the diagnosis. Obviously, embarrassing masculine ailments are equally common.

In such a situation what is a man or woman in public life to do? If he or she makes light of the ailment, the doctors would wish during the indeterminate period, judging by a recent experience some newspapers immediately publish libellous accusations of queue-jumping, privileged treatment and other no less false and damaging allegations. On the other hand, given the facts, the sensational press would be likely to speculate on the serious possibilities of the symptom, thereby superseding the consultant's right to allay the fears of his patient.

In short, the press not only seeks to prevent those in public life from showing any reticence concerning intimate matters requiring medical treatment; but also to abrogate the rights of the medical profession. Is this what is meant by editorial freedom?

I wonder if the Press Council includes a number of women sufficiently aware of the possible implications of mystery ailments to insist on the preservation of common decency.

Yours truly,
JILL CRAIGIE,
Pilgrims Lane,
Hamstead, NW3,
May 4.

Cheaper food

From Mr Oliver Smedley

Sir, Mr Peter Stephenson suggests (April 30) that sugar prices are lower as a result of our being members of the European Community. I am sure that he is right. But in this case, May I reply that no one can possibly know? If we had not joined the Community we would have made other arrangements. There might have been a renegotiated Commonwealth Sugar Agreement. If so what would have been the price?

On November 5 it was reported that the Community had been embarrassed by Mr Peart's negotiations to enter into a long-term agreement with Guyana and therefore presumably other Commonwealth countries at a price of £140 per ton. This also happens to be the price that was paid on two thirds of the quota under the old Commonwealth Sugar Agreement which ended on December 31 last. At least it provides a possible guide-line.

At the moment British sugar traders receive a subsidy from the EEC of about 10p per ton on the sugar they buy. This is declining rapidly: nobody knows how long it will continue. The world price of sugar is also rapidly declining, nobody knows how far it will fall. The highly volatile and confused sugar market is possibly not the best subject for pro or anti-market controversy. At the end of the day one has to decide whether the British people are likely to be better served in the long-term by the arrangements our traders and Government are able to negotiate for us with a free hand from the soils, a season and climate of the whole world or whether we can safely rely on the Commissioners in Brussels, under constant pressure from the Common Market beet sugar farmers, to do better. I know where my own instincts lie.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER SMEDLEY,
The Anti Dear Food Campaign,
Norville House,
Wendens Ambro,
Saffron Walden,
Essex.

Defence cuts and the balance of power

From Sir Frank Roberts

Sir, The Council of the British Atlantic Committee have charged me, as its President, to express through your columns our serious concern over the latest cut of £110 million in the defence budget. While we accept the need in our present economic circumstances for budgetary economies, this cut comes immediately after the other very considerable cuts in the long-term national defence programme only completed in March of this year. This programme resulted from the most searching and careful policy review conducted in defence policy review conducted in careful consultation with our allies in NATO on whose strength and cohesion our national security depends. Nor should the earlier cuts made by the previous Conservative administration be overlooked.

For many of us in the British Atlantic Committee, which enjoys the support of the three main political parties, the defence review cuts already went too far, having in mind the constant growth, both absolutely and relatively, in Soviet military capabilities and the current east-west negotiations for greater security in Europe and for mutual and balanced not unilateral force reductions. Now NATO has been faced presumably with little if any further consultation, with a further cut of £110 million just before it meets later this month at heads of government level.

The degree of Britain's support for NATO could be of crucial importance to United States opinion at this time, not to mention the effect of our actions on other member countries such as Portugal, Greece and Turkey, all of whom must now be weighed in the value of the links with their allies. We also need to retain the confidence of our allies in Western Europe, which is already under some strain during our EEC referendum campaign.

This Government has wisely and consistently insisted on the primacy of NATO in its defence policy. But if the defence review is only to be the starting point for further unilateral reductions, this must impair our contribution to NATO not only directly, but indirectly through the accumulating effects on the at present very high morale of HM forces and through the encouragement given to our allies to follow our example and so weaken national and collective security. The Council trusts that these considerations will be given full weight in the defence debate on May 6 and 7.

I remain, Sir,
FRANK K. ROBERTS, President,
British Atlantic Committee,
Benjamin Franklin House,
36 Craven Street, WC2,
May 2.

From Mr Alan Lee Williams

Labour MP for Hornchurch
Sir, The defence cuts come at a time when the MBFR [mutual force reduction] conference is deadlocked and agreement has been unlikely and when the Soviet Union is arming on land, sea and air at an alarming rate; also when strategic parity between the super-powers—now entering phase II of the SALT dialogue—raises fundamental questions as to whether both Russia and America can outlast a collision course rather than collision course. Whether indeed the super-powers intend to push recessionary collaboration forward to a de facto alliance in the 1980s; and, of course, such

a relationship raises questions about the credibility of the United States as an ally in Europe, or indeed elsewhere, as events in the Middle East and Vietnam appear to suggest.

And the defence cuts come also at a time when NATO has got fully to repair the damage done to alliance interests arising from the disarray caused by the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, and the consequent oil crisis. But most significantly, the defence cuts could both in principle and practice conceivably damage the prospects for mutual East-West disarmament.

Despite the empty rhetoric of those who see all defence cuts as a step towards a permanent peace, the fact remains that the present East-West détente rests on two pillars—the local balance of power in Europe, provided by NATO, and the essential unity of Western Europe, based at present on a close strategic relationship with the United States.

The seriousness of the present situation arises from two inter-related developments—that for the first time in history the Soviet Union is leading at the strategic level; that is, the number of ICBMs she actually deploys exceeds that of the United States by a growing and considerable number. (In fact, Soviet military power may well exceed that of the United States at all levels over the next 10 years); that there is in the United States a growing neo-isolationist mood, represented by Congress's determination to frustrate effective executive action in the field of foreign policy and defence policy. So at a time when Soviet power grows stronger, American power relatively weaker, Britain is forced to initiate defence cuts which might themselves damage the long-term viability of European defence.

Moreover, although the defence White Paper commits us to a wholehearted Eurocentric policy, our foreign policy is paralysed until the result of the national referendum is known.

It is possible to foresee the disintegration of a Western Europe without comprehensive institutions or common objectives. The prospect of defence cuts could lead to a reduction in European defence effort well beyond the bounds of caution. The Common Market could not but be weakened by such a development; for the economic side of the EEC could not develop without a strong political and strategic interests. The drive towards Western European unity since 1945 has, above all, prevented the possibility of intra-European conflict. It is vital that political and military divisions within Europe, together with a unilateral link with the United States, should provide a shield against the possibly divisive nature of détente.

It is clear that every effort should be put into thinking out the implications of the evolving relationships between the Nine and North America, with emphasis on opportunities for more effective cooperation between them through strengthening existing ties and institutions and to bring about the new European partnership which would be so essential to peace and prosperity of the world.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN LEE WILLIAMS,
House of Commons,
May 2.

'Babies for Burning'

From Professor R. V. Beard and others

Sir, Mr Butt's return to the "Babies for Burning" theme in *The Times* (April 24) is welcome even if somewhat overdue. Its tone, however, is in marked contrast to that of his much quoted article on your leader page of January 23 of this year.

Under the headline "This awful silence hanging over abortion on demand" Mr Butt used the book to make some very strong points relating to abortion. "If it was as monstrous a scandal of any other sort it is believable that the press and television would have been so delicately silent? Is there any other area of social concern in which such detailed evidence of fraud and illegality, cruelty and profitable contempt for human life would not have been taken up and sifted in special television programmes and by teams of investigating journalists?"

But the evidence concerns the practice of abortion, and the silence has been deafening. It was virtually unreported in the national press (*The Times* was an exception) and it has been almost wholly without comment.

"Yet allegations of scandal on a colossal scale have recently been published and they appear to be based on irrefutable (our italics) evidence. Is the silence of the media simply because the approval of a 'liberal' abortion policy has become so much a linchpin of conventional enlightenment that any evidence tending to weaken the case is automatically ruled inadmissible?"

There is no doubt that "Babies for Burning" played a considerable part in the lobbying that preceded the debate on Mr James White's Abortion (Amendment) Bill. It was lauded in print by Mr Len Abco, MP, the main architect of the Bill. Mr White named it as a source of his knowledge on the subject and other MPs have told how it influenced their thinking.

The debate on February 7 ended with this highly controversial bill being given a second reading and a Select Committee is now considering possible changes in the 1967 Law.

Those MPs who took part in the debate were presumably surprised to read a special report on the book "Babies for Burning" in your sister paper *The Sunday Times* on March 30. This report generated considerable criticism and Mr Butt says contained "undoubted important allegations" . . . in respect of one of the authors personally, and of parts of the book.

Lords' decision on law of rape

From Mr Joseph Weiler

Sir, The House of Lords' decision on the law of rape (*The Times* Law Report, May 1, 1975) calls our attention to the unsatisfactory state of this branch of Criminal Law and to the intolerable situation of rape victims. Women are advised, and rightly so, that in most rape situations the best course of action to take is submission to the rapist so as to minimize the chances of him not only abusing the victim sexually, but also causing bodily harm (at times even murder) in attempting to overcome the victim.

Unfortunately, this will help the rapist to claim that the victim consented or even wished sexual intercourse; he will probably try to substantiate this by calling evidence proving that the victim did not show signs of being roughly handled. Under these circumstances the victim will have no remedy in law, and the rapist will be set free.

So the two options open to a rape victim are either to resist her assailant even at the risk of her life, or to submit to the rapist at the risk of having no legal remedy. No ready solution is available, but what is needed is a reconsideration of the law as it has been reaffirmed in their lordships' decision on Thursday.

Yours etc,
J. H. WEILER, Secretary,
University of Sussex Law Society,
School of Social Sciences,
Arts Building,
Falmer, Brighton,
May 2.

Curb on public spending

From Mrs Raymond Franks

Sir, Our village library has lately displayed a notice saying that a "Consumer Adviser" would attend for consultation every Wednesday from 10.11 am. This morning I decided to visit her to find out why, at a time when hundreds of millions a year are spent on education, such a service should be thought necessary.

Arriving at 10.55 I found the adviser had already left. Not surprisingly, really, as I learn from a reliable source that for the last three months the consumer adviser has motored from Northampton and back—a distance of 50 miles—without attracting the attention of a single client.

At a time when some of us are anxious to cut down on public spending and most of us do not know how to pay our rates this "social service" would seem to be one that we must not have. I could do without.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE FRANKS,
The Green House, The Green,
Middleton Cheney,
Banbury, Oxon.
April 30.

Choice for women

From Miss Susan J. Fletcher

Sir, It is disappointing to find, in the main advertising section of *The Times*, and the more so in the same issue as Ms Joan Bakewell's eloquent plea for the rights of married women—the "Pour la Femme" advertisement on page 30 of *The Times*, Number 59,383 (April 30).

"The Times' Creme de la Creme" recruitment feature—although still in the main advertising section—recruits, and therefore by definition, subordinate, positions—has at least the merit of offering high salaries for these positions. The posts offered demand high qualifications and thus will be filled by women who consider their careers a matter of importance.

Now distressing, then, to read: "Now under one umbrella *Times* women readers (528,000) can select their job, their clothes, their perfume and their beauty aids." This is precisely this kind of trivialisation of the issue which the implication that we can (and do) change our jobs as often and as lightly as we do the colour of our lipstick—that the new anti-discrimination legislation is trying to abolish.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN FLETCHER,
33 Kensington Park Gardens, W11,
April 30.

Scottish ferry service

From Sir William Lithgow

Sir, In your May Day edition you reported this company's statement that it might withdraw its Lays service under the heading "Scots Ferry Firm may collapse". The Scots ferry operators who have been reported as requiring and receiving assistance, are our state owned competitors.

Western Ferries are presently profitable and intend to remain so. Although Lays and Jura interests number as the majority of our shareholders I cannot, as chairman, recommend non-commercial policies. We are, however, the principal carriers to Lays and I have asked the Secretary of State for Scotland whether or not the Government propose giving the same assistance to the Western Ferry services to Lays as they are giving to Caledonian MacBray. Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM LITHGOW, Chairman,
Western Ferries (Argyll) Limited,
16 Woodside Crescent,
Glasgow.

On the menu

From Mr Sheridan Cooper

Sir, Vive trauglais! Greek items from one Peloponnesian menu.
Stuffed Nine Leaves followed by . . . Meat Buletts . . . and finally . . . Icecreams, each with Whip.
Yours faithfully,
SHERIDAN COOPER,
Singel 19,
Amsterdam,
Holland,
May 1.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS



Government role criticized in demand by CBI TUC to reform Neddy

Sir Ronald McNish, the director-general of the CBI, is likely to endorse many of the findings of the report. He is known to believe that the Neddy has become too "bureaucratic" over the years and that it should become a more decision-oriented body.

Industrial and trade union leaders believe the Neddy's efforts have become too diffuse and that the council too often seems to lack direction.

A main proposal of the CBI-TUC study is that there should be a year's planned programme of work, set down at the beginning of each year and reviewed at the end.

It is thought to be essential that this programme, which is expected to cover major problems which need tackling on a national basis, should be set in the context of a general economic forecast and assessment.

The forecast would probably be for up to five years.

Among the criticisms in the report is that the Government and the Treasury are not co-operating fully as partners in the tripartite process.

Industrial and trade union leaders make it clear in their paper that there has been a failure by successive Governments to take the CBI and the TUC into their confidence on critical matters such as economic forecasts. It has become difficult, they say, to discuss economic projections and related social policies, when industrial and trade union members

of the council are being denied up-to-date information.

Leaders on both sides of industry think that a prime example of this form of obfuscation is the now traditional reply of Chancellors of the Exchequer and Treasury officials that Government thinking on policies of importance such as tax reform cannot be discussed openly in the weeks and sometimes even months before the Budget.

Examining the working of the Neddy machinery the study also finds room for improvement among the so-called "little Neddis", or economic development committees. While it is thought that many of them are doing a valuable job in analysing particular industrial sectors, it is suggested that there may be a case for them to be supplemented by more ad hoc arrangements.

There might, for example, be room for tripartite working parties to be set up on a more informal basis to examine particular problems rather than particular industrial sectors. But both sides agree that there is more scope for planning at sectoral level.

Because of the radical nature of the proposals put forward it seems unlikely that the CBI and the TUC will attempt to press for any prolonged debate on Wednesday. Much more likely is that they will call on the Government and the Neddy office itself to prepare reasoned responses to the paper in preparation for a fuller debate later this summer.

GM ousted by Exxon as biggest US corporation

New York, May 4.—Exxon General Motors has replaced General Motors as the biggest US corporation, according to the 500 largest United States industrial corporations.

Fortune magazine's listing of the 500 largest United States industrial corporations shows that Exxon's sales in 1974 were \$11.2 billion, compared with GM's \$10.9 billion. Exxon's sales in 1973 were \$10.5 billion, while GM's were \$10.4 billion.

Exxon also led in assets, with \$31.3 billion, compared with GM's \$28.7 billion. Exxon's sales in 1974 were \$11.2 billion, compared with GM's \$10.9 billion.

The oil company had \$3,100m in 1974 net income, while GM's was \$2,500m. Exxon's sales in 1974 were \$11.2 billion, compared with GM's \$10.9 billion.

Exxon's sales in 1974 were \$11.2 billion, compared with GM's \$10.9 billion. Exxon's sales in 1973 were \$10.5 billion, while GM's were \$10.4 billion.

Britain expected to renew OECD pledge against trade restrictions

By Melvyn Westlake

Britain now seems certain to indicate to its trading partners within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development this week that it is prepared to sign the renewal of the interim pledge against trade restrictions which expires at the end of this month.

This will end the uncertainty in recent months over the British attitude towards the renewal. Britain is one of the very few countries among the 24 original signatories that has not informally undertaken to re-sign and this has given rise to fears that it might refuse.

The indication of its fresh commitment is expected to be given at the OECD executive committee which meets in special session tomorrow and Wednesday. The executive committee will clear the way for the annual ministerial meeting in Paris at the end of this month.

The ministerial meeting on May 28 and 29 at which the trade pledge renewal and industrial raw material prices will be at the top of the agenda, is expected to be a high powered affair.

It seems likely that Dr Henry Kissinger, United States Secretary of State, will make a rare appearance at an OECD meeting. Mr James Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Peter Shore, the Secretary of State for Trade, will attend and it is also possible that Mr Denis Healey, the Chancellor, will go.

A renewal of the trade pledge will be seen as a major triumph. The pledge is regarded as having

played an important part over the past year in buttressing world trade at a time when there have been strong pressures in several countries, notably Britain, for measures to limit imports, and unfairly boost exports.

However, in return for a general undertaking to re-sign later this month Britain will require a broad acknowledgment from those countries with large trade surpluses that they accept their responsibilities for removing imbalances in trade between the industrialized nations even, if necessary, to the extent of stimulating their economies and thus the level of demand for imports.

In putting this case for Britain on Tuesday at the special session of the executive committee, Sir Peter Thorneycroft, permanent secretary at the Department of Trade, and Mr Christopher Fogarty, deputy secretary at the Treasury, responsible for international monetary affairs, will be only too aware that the West German reaction will be crucial.

West Germany is the country with persistently largest trade surpluses and there must be the danger of sharp differences of opinion between the two countries. However, it is hoped that the Germans will be able to give broad undertakings about reducing their trade surplus which will permit the British to re-sign.

The executive committee will also be giving general consideration to the problems of sharply fluctuating world prices for raw materials. The committee, which is immediately below the Ministerial Council in import-

ance, will have in front of it several papers, discussing the controversial issue of commodity price stabilization.

There is known to be much resistance to the idea of intervening in world commodity markets but the apparent interest in the subject being taken by Dr Kissinger, and the initiative on commodities taken by Mr Harold Wilson at the Commonwealth meeting in Kingston, Jamaica, last week have given a new impetus to studies being carried out within the OECD.

In spite of the doctrinal divisions within several countries over the wisdom of attempting to regulate commodity markets, the background studies are believed to be fairly sympathetic to the idea. An OECD task force charged with studying the issue has apparently been assisted by trade experts at GATT (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) drawn from that faction which supports some kind of market intervention.

The danger of another commodity price boom in 1977 as the world's major economies begin to recover from the present recession, and the need to repair strained relations between rich and poor nations could weigh heavily in the executive committee's discussions.

If some broad agreement is arrived at, the issue will then come before the ministers when they meet. But the issue of commodity price regulation is so controversial and the implications so large that it is doubtful that they will decide to do more than ask for further study.

Tory peers' challenge on insurance deferred

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

Conservative peers, who are opposed to many provisions in the Policyholders Protection Bill, will not vote against its second reading in the House of Lords tomorrow but they will make a strong challenge at the committee stage.

They object to clause 16 which provides that the statutory board could use levy funds to rescue companies that get into difficulties. It indicates that nobody in a company shall benefit, presumably because the Government does not want it to become a shareholders' rescue fund. It indicates that nobody in a company shall benefit, presumably because the Government does not want it to become a shareholders' rescue fund.

But the critics maintain that it will mean using insurance companies' funds to prop up weak or failing companies, and will amount to either benefiting shareholders or backdoor nationalization.

The Bill also gives power to the Secretary of State for Trade to extend the area of insurance covered. Conservative peers think this power should be expunged from the Bill so that it is limited to life and general insurance. Unless this change is made they think the Bill could be extended to companies as well as individuals, providing an element of protection for the imprudent and compensating people who make a bad choice in the competitive insurance market.

Critics will also object to the Secretary of State being given powers to give directions to the statutory board which will oversee the protection scheme. Already 22 peers have indicated they wish to speak in the second reading debate. There are said to be more than 40 peers with a direct interest in insurance companies.

Disruption likely to spread

are are far production morning nation of problems, at Dunlop, pliers, and dies.

The clerical staff want a £10 a week increase because they claim earnings have fallen behind those of manual and supervisory grades.

Also, British Leyland has internal problems at Cowley arising from a decision to cut production of the Marina range by introducing a four-day working week for 4,600 assembly workers. They were laid off on Thursday night and are not due back at work until tomorrow.

At the same time the Cowley management announced that it intended to lay off another 150 "indirect" workers at Cowley.

These are the men who service the assembly areas.

The management decision has led to a "one out, all out" reaction by Transport and General Workers' Union shop stewards who have called a strike of all 2,700 indirect workers in the Cowley complex. As a result of this another 3,000 workers have had to be sent home.

Marina lines are due to restart tomorrow and the strike by other workers should therefore be called off, but British Leyland can expect mounting production problems on all of its Austin Morris models including the recently launched 18/22.

This could well mean that most workers due back tomorrow will quickly be sent home again. The disruption may also spread to the Rover/Triumph plants.

Builders see recession deepening

Further evidence that the construction industry is still in deep state of depression is published today by the National Federation of Building Trades Employers.

The federation's latest state-of-trade enquiry, conducted in April, shows that 35 per cent of firms had fewer enquiries than in January (when the previous survey was carried out) while 13 per cent had many fewer. Of a total of 700 replies only 20 per cent said they had received more enquiries than in January.

Commenting on the results, Mr Roger Poster, president of the NFBE, said: "We are now facing a situation of continuing falling demand with no sign of the bottom in sight. The industry is still less than 10 per cent of its former level and there is no indication of recovery in the foreseeable future."

"Is it Government policy to allow the construction industry to run down permanently? The answer is unmistakably in that direction."

Of the firms questioned 61 per cent said they were already working at three-quarters capacity or less. This proportion is expected to rise to 67 per cent in September. About 61 per cent expect to be worse off this year than last and two-thirds contemplate cutting their labour forces this year.

Fears over BNOG tax exemption

By Roger Violeux

Energy Correspondent

Government proposals to exempt the British National Oil Corporation from the payment of petroleum revenue tax on North Sea oil are likely to bring a new series of protests from the oil industry.

BNOG will handle the 51 per cent of production that the Government is negotiating to acquire from the first 10 commercial oilfields discovered in the North Sea.

Oil companies are already unhappy about the structure of the oil industry as outlined in the Petroleum and Submarine Pipelines Bill and they feel that the provision that will exempt the corporation from PRT will provide an unfair advantage to the new organization in commercial operations.

In his presentation of the Bill last week, Mr Eric Varley, the Secretary of State for Energy, said the exemption from PRT was not a measure designed to give the new corporation a commercial advantage over its more established competitors.

Mr Varley explained that the corporation's revenues would be paid into a National Oil Accounts which would be subject to the scrutiny of the Public Accounts Committee, audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Company executives are far from reassured by Mr Varley's statement. When BNOG is not engaged in refining and marketing, the exemption from PRT would not affect the oil companies, but as the state organization progressed into an integrated sales organization it would be able to take advantage of its privileged position.

Qatar accord soon on takeover from Shell

Kuwait, May 4.—Qatar will sign an agreement in 10 days to take over full ownership of oil produced on its territory, it was reported here today. The state already owns 60 per cent of its oil industry.

Shaikh Abdul Aziz bin Khalifa al Thani, Finance and Oil Minister, told the Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Siyasa that his government had not yet agreed with Shell and Qatar Petroleum companies how much to pay them for their oil.

Qatar will rely on the expertise of the companies, or call on Arab oil experts while waiting for Qatar citizens to be trained to run the local petroleum industry, Shaikh Abdul said. He disclosed that several natural gas fields had been discovered in northern Qatar.

Shaikh Abdul said experts of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries unanimously preferred linking the oil price to the International Monetary Fund's special drawing rights rather than the declining dollar.—Agence France Presse.

Strategy talks: Arab oil ministers met in Kuwait today discussed coordination of their policies and the future of producer-consumer talks on world energy problems.

Conference sources also said the Opec ministers had decided to await further studies by the economic committee of Opec before deciding on a revised system of oil accounting to meet complaints that producers are losing revenues from the present system based on the dollar.

Hongkong offer to remove trade preferences

Hongkong, May 4.—Hongkong has promised to remove trade preferences on Commonwealth imports provided the Colony is made a beneficiary of the United States generalized scheme of preferences.

This was announced by Mr David Jordan, the Commerce and Industry Director. Mr Jordan said after returning from a visit to Washington and London that he was hopeful the Colony would now be included in the United States scheme. The preference covers cars, alcohol and tobacco.—Reuter.

Mercedes gears up for boost in truck orders

Mercedes-Benz, Germany, Europe's largest manufacturer of trucks, is recruiting additional labour and working overtime to meet a 50 per cent increase in orders during the past four months.

This surprising improvement in an otherwise depressed European commercial vehicle market follows action by the federal government to stimulate capital investment. A 7.5 per cent investment tax relief was introduced on December 1 for a limited period only, and is to end on June 12.

Sir Monty replies today

A formal reply from Sir Monty Finiston, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, to questions raised by Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, is expected to be delivered today.

Sir Monty has been asked to detail his plans for drastic reductions in the labour force. Mr Benn has also asked for BSC's view of the role of the Government in respect of the corporation and vice versa.

His plans to improve productivity by cutting the workforce are expected to be fully discussed at a meeting today with trade unions representing BSC's 220,000 employees.

Senior BSC executives are expected to make another request for a suspension of the guaranteed working week agreement in the industry. Under the arrangement BSC employees are paid at least 80 per cent of normal earnings irrespective of production levels.

Process plant deliveries 'must be speeded up'

Practical steps to improve delivery performance in the supply of process plant—a problem which has dogged the process industries, contractors and their suppliers for years—are outlined in a report published today.

The process plant working party established under the aegis of the National Economic Development Office says the need to improve performance in this field has never been greater than now.

"A Necessary Partnership: Reconciling conflicting objectives in the supply of process plant," £3 from NEDO.

Rotaflex

Rotaflex (Great Britain) Limited

Mr. J. Frye, C.B.E.,
Chairman, reports on 1974

	1974	1973
Turnover	£11,182,100	£10,125,100
Consolidated Profit before tax	£791,400	£1,041,300
Net Dividends	£66,700	£65,300
Earnings per Share	3.3p	4.6p

A DIFFICULT YEAR

In spite of adverse trading conditions, turnover improved and profits were the second highest in the Group's history.

CONSOLIDATION

Improved efficiency referred to in my statement last year has reduced considerably the Group's break-even point and given it the flexibility essential to meet today's swiftly changing market conditions.

PROSPECTS

The Group is now ready to take maximum advantage of any improvement in trade and has the production capacity rapidly to increase output without further major capital expenditure.

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Continued Expansion

*Record Profits

Annual dividend increase

10-for-four bonus issue

Group Profit	Profit after tax and minorities	Earnings per share
£1,094,000	£1,687,000	9.90p
£1,248,000	£1,862,000	10.13p
£1,929,000	£2,109,000	11.29p

Power engineers' call to scrap Electricity Council

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Abolition of the Electricity Council and its replacement by a powerful Electricity Authority responsible for taking all major policy decisions for the industry is called for by the Electrical power Engineers' Association in strongly worded evidence to the Plowden Committee of Inquiry into the structure of electricity supply.

The EPEA, which represents almost all the industry's 26,000 engineering, scientific and managerial staff, argues that under the present set-up the industry's management is dominated by the Central Electricity Generating Board, whose views are rarely challenged by the 12 area distribution board chairmen.

"The generating board's right of access directly to the minister to argue a policy stems from the statutory responsibility that it has to carry, the engineers say. "It is responsible for electricity actually being available some seven to 10 years hence. It is this factor, plus the imbalance created by one central generating authority and 12 dispersed boards, which leads to many of the current frustrations in the management of the industry."

A further weakness of the present organization of the industry is that the CEBG is "reluctant" to delegate decision-making to the Electricity Council which cannot, "the proposed new electricity authority should have responsibility for strategic overall planning in the industry, including negotiating with the other bodies concerned the role of electricity in any coordinated energy plan."

It would have specific authority to approve the investment programme of the generating board, and approve the bulk supply tariff, while the CEBG would retain only a statutory duty to propose an investment programme and prices.

This division of authority, says the EPEA, whose evidence is taken seriously because it speaks for 97 per cent of the industry's engineers and engineers in the industry, is intended to ensure that the new authority would be a genuinely central policy-making body for power supply.

The engineers also call for a central distribution board which would take over the statutory role of the existing 12 area boards.

In urging consultation with the unions, the power engineers (who are affiliated to the TUC) appear to go some way towards advocating the TUC policy of worker participation in industry.

'Kingston spirit' hope for next tin conference

From Vanya Walker-Leigh

Geneva, May 4

The International Tin Conference which opens on May 20, will be the first test of how far developed countries will be able to live by the "spirit of Kingston", according to an UNCTAD secretariat source.

Mr Wilson's call for a major effort to set up adequately financed buffer stocks might have a favourable effect on negotiations for a new tin agreement, particularly since the UNCTAD secretariat considers that the buffer stock—fixed at 20,000 tons under the 1971 agreement—should be increased from 30,000 to 50,000 tons.

UNCTAD also hopes that, unlike the last agreement, all consumer countries will help to bear the financial costs of buffer stock operations.

The price range, periodically determined by the Tin Council (now at £2,900 to £3,530) should, according to UNCTAD, be at a level to provide incentives for adequate production.

Any new agreement should also include measures to promote further expansion of tin processing in developing countries, joint financing by producer and consumer countries to promote consumption, and forward planning involving multilateral commitments concerning purchases and supplies.

Producer members of the tin agreement are: Australia, Bolivia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand and Zaire. It is hoped that China and Brazil, both substantial producers, will join the new agreement.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Why Wall Street could prove volatile

Analysts of the first week of a highly significant market move. There are two main factors at work. First, the market is depressed, the market is depressed, the market is depressed. Second, the market is depressed, the market is depressed, the market is depressed.

Third, the market is depressed, the market is depressed, the market is depressed. Fourth, the market is depressed, the market is depressed, the market is depressed.

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Twenty-ninth, the market is depressed, the market is depressed, the market is depressed. Thirtieth, the market is depressed, the market is depressed, the market is depressed.

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Thirty-third, the market is depressed, the market is depressed, the market is depressed. Thirty-fourth, the market is depressed, the market is depressed, the market is depressed.

Thirty-fifth, the market is depressed, the market is depressed, the market is depressed. Thirty-sixth, the market is depressed, the market is depressed, the market is depressed.

Thirty-seventh, the market is depressed, the market is depressed, the market is depressed. Thirty-eighth, the market is depressed, the market is depressed, the market is depressed.

Thirty-ninth, the market is depressed, the market is depressed, the market is depressed. Fortieth, the market is depressed, the market is depressed, the market is depressed.

Nevertheless, Wall Street's record of judging the economy correctly has in the past been good. The Dow Jones average certainly signalled the economy's recovery from the recession of the early 1960s, and the early 1970s recession, and the early 1970s recession, and the early 1970s recession.

In the meantime, it is probably a fair assumption that the days of the company controlled by the founding family through a heavily weighted voting structure are probably numbered in any case. It seems a certainty that the next Companies Bill, which ever party introduces it, will take action on new issues of non-voting capital.

But, even without that, it looks as if the tax system will eventually achieve a similar result, if over a slightly longer period.

Estates House Assessing the new trust

Potential speculators in quoted Lowson trusts who waited until the Hill Samuel reorganization scheme was released around midday last Friday before acting have a dry run.

Some were disappointed by the 96 closely printed pages of text and figures, while others found the shares never as easy to market as they had hoped.

Unitizing or liquidating the trusts would have been preferable if the trusts to be merged had assets that could be readily assessed or turned easily into cash. But cross shareholdings, unquoted investments and the difficulty of assessing claims against Sir Denis Lowson prevented either course being adopted, at least for the present.

The new trust—to be called Estates House Investment Trust—does not at first sight seem exciting. It aims to be a conventional trust, modestly geared, of middling size, and with an essentially conservative investment policy.

North American exposure will be minimal, which may deter bulls of Wall Street but which should also prevent asset values being over-inflated by a inflated dollar premium.

Estates House assets as they would have been on March 18 would have been £260 a share, though the stock market rise has probably added some £5m to this. Claims against Sir Denis Lowson and others could eventually contribute a further 7p a share, moreover.

It could take Hill Samuel and Robert Fleming some time before they have turned the Lowson clutch of investments into something more orthodox. But two of these holdings are a different matter.

Estates House will have key holdings in Anglo-Rail and Algoma Railway, both publicly quoted. These could be sold quickly, and at a good profit to boost asset value. The same considerations apply to a whole series of stakes in lesser known companies. Again, the Estates House directors are working on plans to merge Sterling & Dollar Areas (SADA) with the new trust.

The average level of trust discounts is now as low as in the boom of 1972 which led to the new issue glut. If this discount—now only 18 per cent after deduction of prior charges at redemption values—refrains from widening the new trust should have a reasonable start.

For Italian participation in certain ENI-owned refining and distribution operations has, after months of negotiations, not yet been concluded.

Some top executives, such as those at the head of the chemical subsidiary ANIC are in London. They are expected to meet with ENI's deputy chairman, a socialist, has refused to approve last year's balance sheet.

Signor Carlo Donat Cattin, the industry minister, has called for a firm resolve over the price of methane supplied to the national electricity board.

Villain nous M Claude Villain, general director for prices in the French Finance Ministry since June last year, is as quiet as a mouse as his minister. M. Fourcade, is ebullient and voluble.

For several years, M Villain was deputy director in charge of agricultural products in the price control ministry before becoming personal adviser to M Giscard d'Estaing when the latter was in charge of the nation's finances.

But M Villain's quiet manner conceals a firm resolve not to give way to the mounting pressure of the French Employers' Federation and of French industrialists for a return to freedom of prices, from the present system of "prices on probation".

Having long ago abandoned all thought of statutory price control, which would mean having an inspector behind each shopkeeper's back, the government prefers to control prices at the production end by a system of overall agreement with each branch of industry, which allows some but not too much freedom.

The increase in prices of 22.3 per cent in one year by motor

Commission crisis highlights need for updating IATA

The International Air Transport Association (IATA), the trade association of over 100 airlines which controls the world's air "cartel", and which has virtually no friends outside the aviation industry, is undergoing a new strain as a result of action by one of its most influential members, Pan American.

Pan Am decided that from the beginning of last month until the end of the year, as an emergency measure, it would increase its fares by 10 per cent, making 10 per cent in all, to travel agents who in any one month exceed 90 per cent of the business they did on behalf of the airline last year.

On the face of it, it appeared a simple enough commercial incentive, but it so fulfilled the pages of the IATA rule book that a special meeting of the body's executive committee was called in Montreal.

This was followed by a meeting in Nice of the traffic committee of IATA to find a solution to what quickly became a not inconsiderable crisis in the association's affairs.

Crisis has revealed the instability of IATA once a member decides to go its own way

At the same time, also in Nice, a subcommittee of the Mr Charles Tillingshast, chairman of Trans World Airlines, started to frame new and tough measures which will be applied by IATA against airlines who go outside the cartel.

The Nice meeting failed to find a solution, with all the airlines except Pan Am voting for a commission rate of 7.5 per cent, but Pan Am is enforcing the 7.5 per cent rate.

This is really what the latest IATA crisis is all about—the flouting by many members of the 7 per cent IATA commission rule. These "freewheelers" are the airlines that, from the payment by the airlines for tourist literature which never actually arrives, to hidden subsidies made via the airlines by governments.

Pan Am gives as its reason for protesting the crisis its wish to expose the whole illegal commission situation. With the high-powered committee mentioned above at work, it appears to have succeeded in its intent.

But what the commission crisis has also revealed is the basic instability of IATA, once one of its members decides to go its own way. IATA's success depends on a close unanimity, but as economic pressures have gripped members during the past two years, the common purpose has become harder to find.

Sending the 1975-76 fares package for the routes over the North Atlantic dragged on a wearisome long time as the airlines tried to get their own levels they should pitch their rates to attract the now travel public, but without putting them so low that they would run the airlines into bankruptcy.

Every airline involved had the right of veto, so that a situation could arise when a package laboriously put together by all the major operators could be broken apart by a small carrier with one service across the Atlantic.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter, chairman of British Civil Aviation Authority, launched a scathing

attack earlier this year on the IATA unanimity concept which accepted as a fact that all airlines were equal. He went further, declaring that IATA should be wound up in favour of a new body in which the major airlines had the major say.

His headquarters should not be located in Geneva, "that mausoleum of dead hopes and dreams", he said. He was particularly scathing about the lack of central direction and leadership, caused something among the IATA hierarchy; but there was also an acceptance of his strictures on the concept that everybody must vote alike before anything can be done.

IATA has in fact accepted for some time the folly of this policy, having not far been able to convince governments that the essential change should be made. It was the governments who originally gave the airlines the concept of their own affairs, but they remain constantly in the background as the final arbiters of which IATA decisions are acceptable and which are not.

All fare tariff packages worked out by the airlines have to be scrutinized and accepted by the respective governments, and when the airlines fail to agree it is the governments who step in to take over the fare-setting role.

Plainly, neither the governments, nor the airlines, relish a highly competitive situation inside scheduled commercial aviation. The governments are that in cutting each other's commercial throats, the airlines would stand a good chance of running themselves into financial ruin, at which stage they would look to only one source for transport.

The governments are that in cutting fares, the airlines would also cut costs, and eventually cut safety.

There is no guarantee that the new body would not look like the old IATA after six months

Winding IATA up to start again with a fresh body is an attractive idea in theory, but is unlikely to prove any better in practice. If the world airlines are to achieve the degree of collaboration which they have today in which a passenger can walk into a ticket office in New Zealand and buy, at no extra cost, tickets to take him round the world using a dozen different airlines, they must have a central association. There is no guarantee that the new body would not begin to look very much like the old IATA after six months.

What is required is for the present IATA to update itself, to rid itself of the unanimity rule, and to be prepared to react far more quickly to events.

Under-the-counter commissions had been common knowledge in the business for years, and IATA was always promising to do something about it. Pan Am has done the whole industry a service by bringing the issue to a head and are to be congratulated—although had IATA been a truly efficient organization, Pan Am's action should never have been necessary in the first place.

Gloomy days for limping footwear industry

Britain's troubled footwear manufacturers, for whom exports could be an important escape route from a virtually no-growth domestic market swamped by cheap imports, are looking to Tuesday this week with some trepidation.

It is Canada's Budget day and there are increasing fears that then, or soon after, some form of protection for that country's own makers will be announced.

Britain's footwear industry, affected by short-time working and redundancies, are still counting the cost of similar action by Australia last September, when import restrictions were slapped on, immediately catching more than £2m worth of British goods, some of them already shipped.

Trade rumours of action by the Canadians have multiplied from across the Atlantic in the past few days. Ideas which have been aired include an import surcharge of up to 15 per cent, some sort of quota system, or a special deposits scheme for importers.

Australia was aiming primarily at deflecting cheap imports which have been flooding into all the developed countries from Pacific developing countries like Taiwan, from eastern Europe, South America, Spain and Portugal.

Ironically the unselective Australian quotas looked like keeping out the men's quality shoes which are Britain's main export but which that country does not produce for itself in quantity.

It is primarily men's quality shoes which have enabled British makers to win export markets in the developed English-speaking countries.

United Kingdom manufacturers, probably the most advanced technologically in the world, still exhibit a faltering fashion flair that keeps them from competing seriously in foreign markets for women's shoes.

But sports footwear and specialist goods, like protective boots, are another British strength abroad.

With not far short of 20 per cent of British exports going to North America, United Kingdom manufacturers are keeping a wary eye on developments in the United States. There is a strong lobby from the home industry there.

One man not completely pessimistic over the Australian move is Mr Jack Johnson, chairman and managing director of Church and Co (Footwear), the Northampton company operating at the quality end of the market. Forty per cent of its production is for export, an unusually high figure for the industry which at the last count in 1973 was sending only just over 10 per cent abroad.

He believes the Australians will use a big proportion of

their import licence quota on quality shoes because of their domestic shortfall in that category.

Ward White, in the big league of British manufacturers, is little worried by the Australian decision because it has its own establishments there, including manufacturing. What it can't bring in, it expects to make up for in increased Australian manufacture.

On the other hand it is probably the biggest exporters of men's footwear into Canada, Mr Philip Birch, Ward White managing director, commented: "We have good and close ties in Canada, but there are undoubtedly warning clouds about."

Ward White in the United Kingdom had about 60 per cent of its 7,500 workers on a four day week for much of 1974, particularly the second half of the year. So far there have been no redundancies but, as Mr Birch puts it, "one has to be realistic and the position is kept under strict and regular review."

The United Kingdom industry has been dogged by short-time for more than a year although the factories turning out men's quality shoes have mostly been unaffected and even have retained overtime working. But with the increasing and so far unchecked flood of cheap imports coming in, a new and more serious phase of recession seems to have begun.

Lotus Shoes, with headquarters at Stafford, dismissed 180 workers at its Stone factory which produces women's shoes last November. Another 270 workers went at the end of last month and the factory was closed.

A further 230 workers have also been dismissed, mainly at the Stafford and Northern Ireland factories. Like most makers, Lotus was unwilling to sack craft workers who would be difficult to recruit, but the cheap imports challenge was too much for the company's unbranded shoe, side-accounting for half its manufacturing.

Sales of Lotus branded shoes are claimed to be running at record levels. This is one indication of another escape route for United Kingdom makers who could trade up away from the imports threat rather than go for an aggressive imports substitution policy.

In the fragmented United Kingdom industry of about 500 companies, half of which employ 25 people or less, a redundancy policy seems to be creeping in inexorably. A shake-out among the small companies, especially those without a national brand name to stiffen sales, seems inevitable unless prospects improve.

There has been anxiety among the manufacturers about pro-

gressive destocking by retailers. This can set up a not easily avoidable scenario for eventual panic buying of imported footwear because a run-down British industry would take too long to react fully to any unexpected improvement in retail sales.

But some makers now detect an end of the destocking process and are anxiously awaiting the results of a new round of seasonal orders. Mr Birch said: "There has been an improvement in demand in the past two weeks, but one has to wait to see if a trend establishes itself."

Retail activity during the last week in April appears to be up significantly up—35 per cent up on last year has been quoted—but buying on a mistaken assumption over value added tax is one thing that could explain that.

He added: "We do not yet see a lot of life for six months ahead in terms of levels of working in the factories."

The industry has understandably become more bitter about the continued open trade policies of successive British Governments who, they feel, have always been prepared to sacrifice the home footwear industry when negotiating big trade deals abroad, particularly in East European countries.

Britain has been a net importer of footwear for more than 10 years, but from 1970 the balance has been sharper.

Net imports in 1963 of 27.5 million pairs increased to almost 62 million last year. In value terms the rise went from £6.75m to £60.5m.

The British industry's capacity last year was nearly 200 million pairs. After an export performance in volume terms that had faltered from 20.8 million pairs in 1970 to 16.7 million in 1973, last year showed a 5.8 per cent improvement in reaching 18.2 million pairs.

But that figure is not necessarily as good as it looks. The effects of the Australian quotas have yet to show themselves. The other question is how far the British makers, even aided by a falling pound, can increase penetration of foreign markets in which inflation rates are abating, while in the United Kingdom costs are still rising at more than 20 per cent a year.

But one thing deserving close study is whether the United Kingdom industry can be helped in any way—possibly in the area of marketing and other centralized services or abroad by the provision of central premises—to penetrate further the promising EEC markets, despite problems like the exceptionally fragmented retail system in France.

Derek Harris

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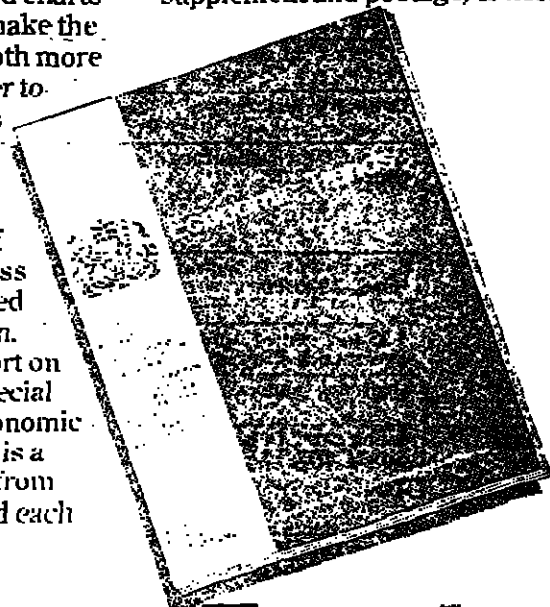
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Economic Trends

A Publication of the Government Statistical Service.

Business Diary in Europe: The plane truth

edeling, Dutch, has put the British chances on the "divide and conquer" tactics which have been largely in order to prove fighter-bomber. Belgium, Denmark, still trying to decide on what placement for the fighter.

patrician world of German private banking this week. The two leading private banks—Deutsche Bank and Dresdner Bank—have been involved for some time in a gentlemanly disagreement over Deutsche Bank's plans to limit the voting rights of its shareholders to a maximum of 5 per cent of the bank's capital.

Dresdner's chief executive, Jürgen Ponto, the man who masterminded Kuwait's acquisition of 14 per cent of Deutsche Bank at the end of last year, is naturally enough opposed to the Deutsche Bank plan.

Equally understandable is the attitude of Deutsche Bank chief Heinrich Ulrich who earlier this year bought 29 per cent of the Stuttgart car company from the Flick group to prevent it falling under the control of the Iranian government.

During the weekend, Dresdner has introduced a new factor into the equation. In a letter circulated to those of its customers who own Deutsche Bank shares, Dresdner Bank has given a warning that it will not automatically represent their interests at the Deutsche Bank annual meeting on May 23 unless it has their specific permission.

A small point perhaps, but German shareholders, like most others, are a supine lot at the best of times. Dresdner Bank's action, which is believed to be unprecedented in post-war stock exchange history in Germany, could result in an embarrassing high rate of abstentions at the Deutsche Bank meeting.

Postulating Signor Antonio Bisaglia, the Italian Minister for State-owned Industry, will find on his office desk tomorrow a confidential



Signor Girotti resigning?

letter which set tongues talking in Rome at the weekend. It is from Signor Raffaele Girotti, chairman of the parliamentary energy corporation ENI, and because the minister was away at Lake Maggiore for a Christian Democratic party conference it has apparently lain unopened for several days.

In the meantime speculation has been rife as to what it says. Has Signor Girotti resigned? His own press office declines to give any clue.

There are those incidentally who argue that he could not resign, because his term of office expired last October and he has thus nothing from which to resign, even if in practice he has been carrying on.

Could it be that, fed up with the air of confusion surrounding the corporation, he is pressing the minister to clarify where he stands and where the ENI is going?

Certainly the ENI management has been having its full share of troubles recently. A much vaunted deal with Iran for guaranteed long-term supplies of crude oil in exchange

for Iranian participation in certain ENI-owned refining and distribution operations has, after months of negotiations, not yet been concluded.

Some top executives, such as those at the head of the chemical subsidiary ANIC are in London. They are expected to meet with ENI's deputy chairman, a socialist, has refused to approve last year's balance sheet.

Signor Carlo Donat Cattin, the industry minister, has called for a firm resolve over the price of methane supplied to the national electricity board.

Villain nous M Claude Villain, general director for prices in the French Finance Ministry since June last year, is as quiet as a mouse as his minister. M. Fourcade, is ebullient and voluble.

For several years, M Villain was deputy director in charge of agricultural products in the price control ministry before becoming personal adviser to M Giscard d'Estaing when the latter was in charge of the nation's finances.

But M Villain's quiet manner conceals a firm resolve not to give way to the mounting pressure of the French Employers' Federation and of French industrialists for a return to freedom of prices, from the present system of "prices on probation".

Having long ago abandoned all thought of statutory price control, which would mean having an inspector behind each shopkeeper's back, the government prefers to control prices at the production end by a system of overall agreement with each branch of industry, which allows some but not too much freedom.

The increase in prices of 22.3 per cent in one year by motor

manufacturers has strengthened the government in its determination not to release this brake. M Villain said last week that he regarded the increase as excessive.

But it will take two years at least before France can achieve the price level of inflation control, he thinks.

Sea shanties Members of Britain's shipbuilding fraternity, which last week learned that Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, still has them very much in his nationalization sights, crossed the North Sea to Norway at the weekend to get away from it all.

Not that the companies due to be absorbed by British Shipbuilders next year (Parliament permitting) show signs of not taking their medicine lying down.

They're hoping to renew contacts with the Norwegian industry, aided by the drums and pipes of the Renfrewshire and Bute Constabulary Pipe Band—its candidate for oblivion as a result of Scottish local government reorganization.

The band, whose drum major, Sergeant David Magill, has relations in Bergen, is spending a week on a visit financed by lower Clyde shipbuilders, Scott's and its old customers, Kristian Jebsen Røderi, the Norwegian shipping group.

Today is the high point of a crowded programme when they play at the opening of the Nor-Shipping '75 international shipping exhibition in Oslo.

In view of the depressed state of the tanker market in which many Norwegian owners are heavily involved and of the prospects of nationalization, the band would be well advised not to play too many laments.

Looking at the new face of Northampton

Take a helicopter flight over Northampton, 65 miles from London and just off the M1 in Midland shire country, and it is obvious that much is happening there. The old boor and shoe town, now dominated by engineering, is in the midst of being transformed from a centre of what was 130,000 people into a community of 230,000.

A series of housing projects are being attacked simultaneously. New factories are mushrooming and redevelopment is turning part of the town centre into a welter of din and dust. Construction gangs push on with projects like Grosvenor Estates' £3m two-level shopping and services centre, fully enclosed and air conditioned.

Bulldozers are already beating the bounds of the extended new borough, reaching out into what has been farmland separating peripheral villages from the old town development. By the river Nene at one edge of the old town is Carlsberg's £16m fully automated brewery, the company's first European production unit outside Denmark. It has been on stream for a year and already a second phase of expansion is being started.

Around another £7m is being spent there in expectation of larger sales in the United Kingdom going from the current 16 per cent of beer sales to some 25 per cent by 1980. At Moulton Park, one of the first outskirts employment areas—so called in anticipation of office development as well as factory building—is the new production headquarters of Henry Telfer, the meat products subsidiary of the J. Lyons Group.

For around £5m Telfer's United Kingdom brand leaders for meat product supply to the catering industry, have got one

Industry in the regions

of the largest manufacturing complexes in Europe and the 20 acre site allows plenty of room for expansion.

One key reason why they went there from Hammersmith was Northampton's central geographical position in England, close to key motorway junctions and on the fast, electrified rail link between Euston, Birmingham, the North-west and Scotland.

The transport connexions are in fact attracting a lot of warehousing operations—Levi Strauss, the jeans people, have for instance the largest computer controlled clothing warehouse in Europe there—which may be good for the rates but does not produce large numbers of jobs.

On the other hand, the transport advantages could bring in clerical jobs, especially from offices decentralizing from London. More than 700,000 square feet of office space has so far been completed in the town, and another 460,000 square feet is under construction, including some in the Grosvenor Centre with more planned over a new adjacent bus station.

Among the headquarters already there is that of Barclaycard, which moved to new premises from elsewhere in the town two years ago. This and part of the Barclays cheque clearing operation account for more than 2,000 employees, many of them women and some working as half-time auxiliaries.

In 1973, a boom year when Northampton's labour market was virtually drained dry, Barclays, mainly because of recruitment difficulties, opened other

Barclaycard regional centres elsewhere in the country.

The past year's economic slowdown has at least balanced out that problem. But Northampton's unemployment rates are well the right side of national averages. Last month the town had 2.4 per cent of its 74,000 work force jobless against 4 per cent nationally. The female unemployment rate was at 0.5 per cent, a full 1 per cent below the national average.

This in spite of the fact that many local engineering companies—including British Timken, the bearings makers and Northampton's biggest employers—are involved in components supply to the depressed motor industry.

The effect of leaner times is seen more in levels of earnings as overtime work has shrunk and short-time working—particularly in footwear, the town's second largest industry—has increasingly occurred.

Although there have been redundancies among footwear workers, the town has tended to benefit from the fact that the makers there are largely in the men's quality shoes end of the market where demand both at home and abroad is still good.

Mr David Franklin, secretary of Northampton Town Footwear Manufacturers' Association, who has been logging the loss of 500 jobs a year for some time, believes 1974 saw a bottoming out of the trend.

The town, which boasted 105 boot and shoe makers with a work force of around 20,000 in the thirties, is now down to 18 manufacturers and a manufacturing labour force of 4,000.

Whether Northampton, despite outstanding progress in only five years since expansion began, can become a significant centre, competing against particularly the nearby greenfield city of Milton Keynes, depends a great deal on three organizations.

The Northampton Development Corporation works particularly closely with the borough council—which is organizing all the inner town development—and the county council which among other projects is putting in fast road by-pass routes around the central area.

The Development Corporation's general manager, Dr John Weston—an engineer who previously was director of the Building Research Station in London—reckons that the speed and relative smoothness of development so far owes a lot to luck in all the key people getting along well together.

One result is an imaginative scheme for a Nene barrage that will create a 188 acre lake area. Something of a retail showpiece, on the edge of the old town development, Tesco have their largest store there.

The key question seen by Dr Weston is how soon industrial confidence returns generally. Already housing supply is catching up quickly with demand from incoming workers—Northampton being an important part of the London overspill concept—and although inquiries still come in from new industrial prospects few at the moment get to fruition.

Dr Weston commented: "We are not disgruntled yet but we are also far from grieved. I suspect things are going to get worse before they get better."

Derek Harris

FINANCIAL NEWS

Rowntree to be more flexible

The trend of raw material costs appears to have stabilized, writes Sir Donald Barron, chairman of Rowntree Macintosh, in his annual review. But there would have to be a "significant reduction" to offset the large increase in wages and salaries in some countries, he adds. As a whole, the group looks to this year with confidence, but with an awareness of the uncertainties existing in the present economic and social environment. As an example the chairman says it is not certain the consumer will continue to accept large increases in price which a short time ago would have caused sharp reductions in consumption.

In the United Kingdom there is some evidence of action by retailers to reduce stocks, but it is not yet certain whether this is a temporary response to working capital requirements. Nor is there any degree of certainty about the amount by which the purchasing power in various economies will be reduced by unemployment.

A further area of uncertainty is introduced by the EEC referendum. Although established operations in the Community provide a considerable safeguard, withdrawal would be disadvantageous to the group, particularly for exports.

In view of all this the chairman does not feel it would be

appropriate to make a forecast at this stage. But he stresses the company expects to have to operate with a much shorter "time horizon" and certainly on a more flexible basis than in previous years.

Nevertheless, the company expects to obtain its appropriate share of consumer purchasing power and its 1975 plans are for a continuation of a steady growth in that share both at home and overseas. It is expected that profits will be satisfactory in the prevailing conditions.

Last term the pre-tax rose from £12m to £14.6m from a turnover expanded from £204.7m to £252.1m.

Pentos has 43pc of Wright Bindley

After announcing a cash offer of 60p a share for the balance of Wright, Bindley & Gell, the Birmingham engineering group, Mr Terry Maher's Pentos Ltd has acquired more than 20,000 additional shares, bringing its total stake to 43 per cent.

The offer is conditional on Pentos receiving acceptances from more than 50 per cent, including the shares already held. In addition a £52,000 offer in cash is being made for the WB & G loan stock. The loan stock offer depends on the ordinary offer becoming unconditional.

Ulster TV slump 38pc after six months

A 38 per cent slump in interim taxable profits to £113,000 is reported by Ulster Television. Over the half year to January 31 advertising revenue, after the Exchequer levy, rose slightly from £1.09m to £1.13m, but the company says inflation forced expenditure up by nearly 10 per cent.

In declaring that they will continue to make efforts to contain expenditure the directors say that revenue since the halfway stage has shown an improvement on the previous year and they hope this will be maintained. But they stress there are many difficulties fac-

ing both the United Kingdom economy and the television industry.

In view of the circumstances the directors feel it would be best to defer consideration of a dividend until the full-year results are known. Last time a total of 4.47p was paid in two instalments.

Including other trading income, interest received and income from quoted investments, the group received a gross £1.19m, against £1.16m. But the pre-tax is struck after depreciation of £63,000 (£53,000) and operating expenditure of £1.01m (£930,000).

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION MR REGISTRAR DEARBURGH

IN THE MATTER of ESTATES HOUSE INVESTMENT TRUST LIMITED No. 001149 of 1975 and

IN THE MATTER of ESTATES HOUSE SECURITIES LIMITED No. 001150 of 1975 and

IN THE MATTER of BRITISH ISLES & GENERAL INVESTMENT TRUST LIMITED No. 001151 of 1975 and

IN THE MATTER of CAIRN-TON INVESTMENT TRUST LIMITED No. 001152 of 1975 and

IN THE MATTER of FIRST RE-INVESTMENT TRUST LIMITED No. 001153 of 1975 and

IN THE MATTER of MELBOURNE AND GENERAL INVESTMENT TRUST LIMITED No. 001154 of 1975 and

IN THE MATTER of NELSON FINANCIAL TRUST LIMITED No. 001155 of 1975 and

IN THE MATTER of NEW WORLD & GENERAL INVESTMENTS LIMITED No. 001156 of 1975 and

IN THE MATTER of SCOT-TISH OVERSEAS & COMMON-WEALTH INVESTMENT TRUST LIMITED No. 001157 of 1975 and

IN THE MATTER of STER-LING & OVERSEAS INVESTMENTS LIMITED No. 001158 of 1975 and

IN THE MATTER of UNITED KINGDOM & OVERSEAS INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED No. 001159 of 1975 and

IN THE MATTER of CHAR-TERLAND & GENERAL LIMITED No. 001160 of 1975 and

IN THE MATTER of FANTI CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED No. 001161 of 1975 and

IN THE MATTER of THE INVESTMENT AND PROPERTY TRUST LIMITED No. 001162 of 1975 and

IN THE MATTER of NORTH-ERN & TRANSATLANTIC TRUST LIMITED No. 001163 of 1975 and

IN THE MATTER of COLO-NIAL AND FOREIGN SECURITIES CORPORATION LIMITED No. 001164 of 1975 and

IN THE MATTER of THE GENERAL SECURITIES INVESTMENT TRUST COMPANY LIMITED No. 001165 of 1975 and

IN THE MATTER of MORGAN, LYONS & CO. LIMITED No. 001166 of 1975 and

IN THE MATTER of PREFER-ENTIAL INVESTMENT TRUST LIMITED No. 001167 of 1975 and

IN THE MATTER of SECOND RE-INVESTMENT TRUST LIMITED No. 001168 of 1975 and

IN THE MATTER of TRUST OF TRANS-CANADA SHARES LIMITED No. 001169 of 1975 and

IN THE MATTER of THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that by an Order dated the 18th April, 1975 made in the above matters the Court has directed separate Meetings of the holders (including in the cases of Scottish, Overseas & Commonwealth Investment Trust Limited and Charterland & General Limited the holders of Warrants to Bearer representing Ordinary Shares) of the respective classes of Stocks,

Shares and Debenture Stocks (other than that Stock and those Shares beneficially owned by any of the above-named Companies) set forth in the second column of the Schedule hereto of the Companies whose names are set forth in the first column of the said Schedule to be convened for the purpose of considering and if thought fit, approving (with or without modification) a Scheme of Arrangement proposed to be made between the Scheme Companies (as defined in the said Scheme of Arrangement) and (a) the Public Holders (as defined in the said Scheme of Arrangement) of each class of their respective Share and Loan capitals (b) the Scheme Companies which are the beneficial owners of share capital of each such class and Estates House Investment Trust Limited and Estates House Securities Limited and that such Meetings will be held at The Tower Hotel, St. Katharine's Way, London E.I., on the respective dates and at the respective times specified in the Third column of the said Schedule (or so soon thereafter as any preceding Meeting shall have been concluded or adjourned) on which respective dates and at which place and respective times all the said holders of the said classes of Stocks, Shares and Debenture

Stocks are requested to attend. The said holders of the respective classes of Stocks, Shares and Debenture Stocks may vote in person at such of the said Meetings as they are entitled to attend or they may appoint another person, whether a member of the class or not as their proxy to attend and vote in their stead.

Any person entitled to attend the said Meetings can obtain copies of the said Scheme of Arrangement, Forms of Proxy and copies of the Statement required to be furnished pursuant to Section 207 of the above mentioned Act, at the offices of Hill Samuel Registrars Limited situate at 6 Green-coat Place, London, S.W.1, or at the offices of the undermentioned Solicitors at the address mentioned below during usual business hours on any day (other than a Saturday, a Sunday or a Public Holiday) prior to the day appointed for the said Meetings.

Holders of Warrants to Bearer representing Ordinary Shares of Scottish, Overseas & Commonwealth Investment Trust Limited, and of Charterland & General Limited can also obtain copies of the said Scheme of Arrangement, the said Statement and Forms of Proxy with a Form of Certificate endorsed thereon for com-

pletion by (a) an Authorised Depository as listed in Appendix I and II of the current issue of the Bank of England's Notice EC1 or (b) by one of the undermentioned Agents (showing the deposit of such Warrants in the manner herein-after mentioned) at the offices of Hill Samuel Registrars Limited situate at 6 Green-coat Place, London, S.W.1, or at the offices of the undermentioned Agents during usual business hours at their respective offices hereinafter mentioned prior to the day appointed for the said Meetings.

Where Warrants to Bearer have been lodged or are deposited in the United Kingdom with an "Authorised Depository" a Certificate in the form endorsed on the said Form of Proxy (bearing the stamp or signature of such Authorised Depository) stating that the said Warrants have been deposited with such Depository and will not be released by it except on surrender of such Certificate and stating the name and address of the holder of the said Warrants the serial numbers thereof and the number of Ordinary Shares represented by the said Warrants so deposited may be

obtained from the Authorised Depository and, when so obtained must be produced at the relevant Meeting by the holder of such Warrants if attending in person, or lodged with his completed Form of Proxy if he desires to vote by proxy. Completed Forms of Proxy with the Certificate thereon will be returned by Hill Samuel Registrars Limited on the receipt at any time of a written request from the relevant holder.

Holders of Warrants to Bearer resident outside the United Kingdom are advised that such Warrants may be deposited with either one of the following Agents, namely Banque de l'Union Parisienne, 6 & 8 Boulevard Haussmann, Paris (IXe), France, or Societe de Banque Suisse, Geneva, Switzerland and that a Certificate on the lines indicated above endorsed on the said Proxy and signed by an Official of one of such Agents must be produced at the relevant Meeting by the holder of such Warrants if attending in person, or lodged with his completed Form of Proxy if he desires to vote by proxy.

It is requested that forms appointing proxies be lodged with Hill Samuel Registrars Limited, 6 Green-coat Place, London, S.W.1, not less than

48 hours before the Meetings but lodged they in the Chairmen which they in the case joint holders or Debenture the senior wh whether in pe will be accep sion of the v joint holders pose seniority mined by the the names st ters of Membe Stockholders Companies as By the said has, appointe whose names Fourth colum Schedule to set opposite names in the s has directed report the re the Court. The said Se ment will be subsequent a Court.

DATED this 1975. ALLEN & C 15, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.4. Solicitors named Co

THE SCHEDULE above referred to

(1) Name of Company	(2) Particulars of Class of Stocks, Shares or Debenture Stocks Meetings whereof are ordered to be convened	(3) Date and time appointed for Meetings to be held at The Tower Hotel, St. Katharine's Way, London, E.I.	(4) Chairman appointed by the Court
British Isles & General Investment Trust Limited	4 1/2 per cent Debenture Stock 1980/85	29th May, 1975 10.10 o'clock in the forenoon	Ronald Dalglish Guthrie or failing him Peter Anning Revell-Smith or failing him Thomas Elliot Willoughby Waddington
	5 per cent Debenture Stock 1985/90	29th May, 1975 10.20 o'clock in the forenoon	ditto
	2 1/2 per cent Cumulative Preference Shares	29th May, 1975 10.30 o'clock in the forenoon	ditto
	Ordinary Shares	29th May, 1975 10.40 o'clock in the forenoon	ditto
Cairnton Investment Trust Limited	5 1/2 per cent Debenture Stock 1986/91	29th May, 1975 11.10 o'clock in the forenoon	William Harrison Harrison-Cripps or failing him Ronald Dalglish Guthrie or failing him Peter Anning Revell-Smith
	3 1/2 per cent Cumulative Preference Shares	29th May, 1975 11.20 o'clock in the forenoon	ditto
	Ordinary Shares	29th May, 1975 11.30 o'clock in the forenoon	ditto
First Re-Investment Trust Limited	4 per cent Debenture Stock 1979/84	29th May 1975 11.55 o'clock in the forenoon	William Harrison Harrison-Cripps or failing him Ronald Dalglish Guthrie or failing him Peter Anning Revell-Smith
	4 1/2 per cent Debenture Stock 1979/84	29th May 1975 12.05 o'clock in the afternoon	ditto
	5 per cent Debenture Stock 1985/90	29th May 1975 12.15 o'clock in the afternoon	ditto
	3 1/2 per cent Cumulative Preference Shares	29th May 1975 12.25 o'clock in the afternoon	ditto
	Ordinary Shares	29th May 1975 12.35 o'clock in the afternoon	ditto
Melbourne and General Investment Trust Limited	6 1/2 per cent Debenture Stock 1978/83	29th May 1975 2.40 o'clock in the afternoon	Peter Anning Revell-Smith or failing him Ronald Dalglish Guthrie or failing him Thomas Elliot Willoughby Waddington
	5 1/2 per cent Debenture Stock 1985/90	29th May, 1975 2.50 o'clock in the afternoon	ditto
	4 1/2 per cent Cumulative Preference Shares	29th May, 1975 3.00 o'clock in the afternoon	ditto
	Ordinary Shares	29th May, 1975 3.10 o'clock in the afternoon	ditto
Nelson Financial Trust Limited	6 per cent Debenture Stock 1982/87	29th May, 1975 3.40 o'clock in the afternoon	Thomas Elliot Willoughby Waddington or failing him Ronald Dalglish Guthrie or failing him Duncan James Hurdus Bowden-Smith
	8 per cent Convertible Second Debenture Stock 1995/2005	29th May, 1975 3.50 o'clock in the afternoon	ditto
	4 1/2 per cent Cumulative Preference Shares	29th May, 1975 4.00 o'clock in the afternoon	ditto
	Ordinary Shares	29th May, 1975 4.10 o'clock in the afternoon	ditto

(1) Name of Company	(2) Particulars of Class of Stocks, Shares or Debenture Stocks Meetings whereof are ordered to be convened	(3) Date and time appointed for Meetings to be held at The Tower Hotel, St. Katharine's Way, London, E.I.	(4) Chairman appointed by the Court
New World & General Investments Limited	Ordinary Shares	29th May, 1975 4.40 o'clock in the afternoon	Ronald Dalglish Guthrie or failing him Thomas Elliot Willoughby or failing him Sir Douglas Marshall
Scottish, Overseas & Commonwealth Investment Trust Limited	4 1/2 per cent Cumulative Preference Shares	29th May 1975 4.55 o'clock in the afternoon	William Harrison Harrison or failing him Ronald Dalglish Guthrie or failing him Peter Anning Revell-Smith
	Ordinary Shares (including Warrants to Bearer representing Ordinary Shares)	29th May 1975 5.05 o'clock in the afternoon	ditto
Sterling & Overseas Investments Limited	6 per cent Debenture Stock 1983/88	30th May 1975 10.10 o'clock in the forenoon	Peter Anning Revell-Smith or failing him William Harrison Harrison or failing him Geoffrey Newton Cronheim
	Ordinary Shares	30th May 1975 10.20 o'clock in the forenoon	ditto
United Kingdom & Overseas Investment Company Limited	5 1/2 per cent Cumulative Preference Shares	30th May 1975 10.55 o'clock in the forenoon	Thomas Basileigh Bond or failing him William Harrison Harrison or failing him Thomas Elliot Willoughby W
	Ordinary Shares	30th May 1975 11.05 o'clock in the forenoon	ditto
Charterland & General Limited	4 1/2 per cent Cumulative Preference Stock	30th May 1975 11.25 o'clock in the forenoon	Thomas Elliot Willoughby W or failing him Ronald Dalglish Guthrie or failing him Peter Anning Revell-Smith
	Ordinary Stock (including Warrants to Bearer representing Ordinary Shares)	30th May 1975 11.35 o'clock in the forenoon	ditto
Fanti Consolidated Investment Company Limited	Stock Units	30th May 1975 11.55 o'clock in the forenoon	Thomas Elliot Willoughby W or failing him William Harrison Harrison-C or failing him Ronald Dalglish Guthrie
The Investment and Property Trust Limited	Ordinary Shares	30th May 1975 12.10 o'clock in the afternoon	Peter Anning Revell-Smith or failing him Ronald Dalglish Guthrie or failing him Thomas Elliot Willoughby W
Northern & Transatlantic Trust Limited	Stock Units	30th May 1975 12.25 o'clock in the afternoon	Thomas Elliot Willoughby W or failing him Peter Anning Revell-Smith or failing him William Harrison Harrison-Crit
The General Securities Investment Trust Company, Limited	4 per cent Debenture Stock	30th May 1975 12.45 o'clock in the afternoon	Ronald Dalglish Guthrie or failing him Thomas Elliot Willoughby W or failing him Sir Douglas Marshall
Preferential Investment Trust Limited	7 per cent First Mortgage Debenture Stock 1975/78	30th May 1975 2.45 o'clock in the afternoon	Thomas Basileigh Bond or failing him William Harrison Harrison-Cripp or failing him Sir Douglas Marshall
Second Re-Investment Trust Limited	Shares of £1 each	30th May 1975 3.00 o'clock in the afternoon	Peter Anning Revell-Smith or failing him Sir Douglas Marshall or failing him William Harrison Harrison-Cripp

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Pearl Assurance Company Limited

Statement by the Chairman, Mr. S.C. McIntyre, MBE, FCLIS



Turning to the year's results, I should refer to the retirement of Mr. Dallas, after 47 years of service, from the Board. Mr. Dallas was a member of the Board from 1970 to 1974. He has our sincere thanks for his valuable contribution to our affairs and takes with him our best wishes in his retirement. I did not afford a good client business in the United Kingdom as it did with the week and continuing with inflation and a prolonged fall in investment values. Last week made business—premium-collecting more our staff, whilst inflation continues to our costs. In instances the results achieved must be regarded in the light of the reasonably encouraging a good base from which to continue our operations in

en particularly helpful in our year-end decisions that age in the fall in stock prices, to exceptionally low levels, to a temporary phase of resulting depreciation in our long-term business, with balance sheet values, as good before the end of the year, unsatisfactory results in Australia and Canada, which showed a sub-

The Business

respects new life business materially higher than in combined new annual premium of £7.1m, were up by 16½ per cent for the two years as follows:

branch: new annual premium 18 per cent to £10.9m; assured up by £33m to

branch: new annual premium 13 per cent to £6.2m; assured £265m compared with £211m for 1973, and new considerations as somewhat down at

Business in force

a business in force at 31st 1974 comprised sums assured of £2,360m, compared with £2,116m for 1973, and terminal bonuses of £21.7m with £18.5m.

premium income for the two life branches, was an increase of £6.8m over 1973, once again the industrial base was proportionately

ments to policyholders for claims, annuities and surrenders to £72.3m compared with £70.1m for the previous year. The year but there was a decrease in surrender payments. The growth in the ordinary branch but representative change in the inch, where after falling for payments were back to the 1973 level, though this still shows, a fall in relation to the force:

branches there was a serious increase in expense ratios—up to 37.06 per cent in the industrial branch and from 27.32 per cent in the ordinary branch. The growth in partly accounts for the increase in the major element in salaries and other staff costs, including pensions and insurance contributions, and of postage and telephone costs and rates. Further very reasons in these latter items occurred or are in process of immediate future.

Need for realisation

an apology for writing again under this heading. Indeed, inflation since this year has made the problem acute. When expenses that are related to premium income new business are forced under inflationary pressures,

It is vital that as quickly as possible premium income should increase by at least the same rate. It has not been too difficult in the general branch, with its annual contracts, to achieve progress at that kind of level. But in the life branches, where premiums under existing policies cannot be increased, it is a very difficult task for the Field Staff to secure new business on a scale that lifts the total premium income to the requisite extent. In common with many other life offices, we certainly did not achieve the necessary increase in 1974.

However, as I reported last year, we are, with the co-operation of the staff and their unions, making very serious endeavours to improve our new business productivity and the maintenance of the existing business, as well as taking all practicable measures to contain and where possible reduce our costs. All these aspects are important if we are to be able to continue offering good value to our policyholders for the savings element in their policies, for unless we—and indeed the industry as a whole—can do so, the willingness of people to continue to make medium and long-term saving will diminish. That in turn would make our task more difficult.

But as I say more than once in this statement, the real solution lies in the conquering of inflation, for the benefit not simply of the industry but for the nation as a whole.

Asset Values, Valuations and Terminal Bonuses

Last year I was able to report that at the end of 1973 market values of our assets, though lower than a year earlier and still falling, were well above balance sheet value.

In our mid-year statement, we were still able to report an excess of market value over book value, but the continuing fall in investment values produced a situation at the year-end in which we had a total shortfall, for the long-term funds, of some £70m compared with the balance sheet total of £738m. We had accordingly to consider the terms of the certificates that we are required to give in conjunction with the balance sheet and accounts. However, it became clear quite early in the New Year that the final serious dip in Stock Exchange prices had been an aberration that was being quickly corrected by the market, and before the end of January our market value deficiency had disappeared. Since we are operating a long-term business, in which participating policies play a very large part and in which, therefore, it is extremely helpful to be able to maintain consistency from year to year in the valuation of assets and liabilities, it remains proper so to do, we were reluctant to move from our normal balance sheet asset valuation. The Actuary was able to report that, had we nevertheless wished to adopt one form or other of market value presentation, it would have been appropriate for him to make modifications to the bases for valuing liabilities that would have shown additional surplus sufficient to offset the difference between the asset valuations. This was an important factor in reassuring us that it would be entirely proper, despite the market value at the year-end, to maintain our normal balance sheet asset valuation. This, of course, enabled the Actuary to retain unchanged the main elements in his valuation of the liabilities.

I have thought it proper to write at some length on this point, in elaboration of the unusual certificates and notes that accompany the accounts. I am pleased to add that an approximate valuation of the assets at the time of preparation of this statement showed an excess of market values over book values, for the long-term fund, of nearly £100m.

A consequence of the fall in market values has inevitably been, as I forecasted last year, a further fall in the rates of terminal bonus declared on this occasion. The smoothing elements in our system do mean, however, that our policyholders whose policies become claims during our next 'terminal bonus year' will still receive very useful additions to their sums assured (or annuities) and reversionary bonus.

The different composition of the investment portfolios for the short-term business and the stockholders' fund has meant that even at the lowest levels early in January there was still an excess of market values over balance sheet values, taking both funds together. The solvency margin at 31st December 1974, for the short-term business, was still at the satisfactory level of 35 per cent of premium income or, at market values, 43 per cent.

The Government's Proposed Guarantee Scheme

The failures and rescues of a few small life insurance companies that had ventured unwisely into specialised

fields of activity have led the Government to propose legislation to compel other companies to bear the cost of shortfalls arising from future failures. There have been lengthy and detailed discussions between the Secretary of State, the Department of Trade and the industry. In these, the industry has made clear its basic belief that such legislation is unnecessary and undesirable. The Department of Trade has ample powers, under the legislation introduced in 1973, to make it virtually impossible (short of outright fraud) for further failures to occur.

As a result of these discussions, however, the industry has agreed to go along with a restricted measure of support for private policyholders if such a failure were to happen. We ourselves as a predominantly 'with-profits' life office, are basically opposed to the compulsory use of our policyholders' funds to ensure full benefits for other policyholders in such circumstances. But we have nevertheless supported the efforts the industry has been making to try to ensure that the Government's scheme is as fair and practical as possible, within reasonable limits. At the time this statement is being prepared it is not clear whether these efforts will succeed. We hope they will, but if not, then we consider that we have a duty to our policyholders to support all proper efforts to see that the proposed legislation is either defeated or amended to make it acceptable. In the meantime, I repeat our basic view—that it is not right for the funds of policyholders in sound companies to be taken to support companies which through mismanagement have proved unable to meet their commitments to policyholders.

Pensions

Pension provision has become especially topical in recent times for two separate, and yet in some ways related, reasons.

State pensions have unhappily been a political football for many years past, with proposed new schemes having gestation periods longer than the lives of Parliaments. In some respects this situation appears to have improved markedly, with the development of what is almost a bi-partisan approach in respect of major aspects. This will be generally welcome, with the prospect that yet another round of expensive, non-productive work, for employers, pension funds and insurance companies, will be avoided. Nevertheless the Government's professed concern to encourage the development of good occupational pension schemes as alternatives to the earnings-related component of the proposed state scheme must still be viewed with scepticism. This is because their proposed requirements for contracting-out of the earnings-related part of the scheme will put an open-ended commitment on employers for future provision in respect of employees who leave after five years' qualifying service. With inflation at anything like recent levels and the absence of appropriate inflation-proof investments, it is difficult to see how employers can properly undertake such commitments, and if they cannot, then what are at present good occupational schemes, will not be able to exist, unadjusted, 'on top of' the proposed state scheme.

Inflation has also become a very serious factor for any final-earnings pension scheme, such as we have for our own staff. Every general increase in earnings entails a corresponding increase in the liability for accrued benefits in respect of past service, apart from requiring an increased contribution for the current year's service. It cannot be expected that employers (and in our case, policyholders) can go on financing ten, fifteen or twenty per cent additions to the existing liabilities in addition to contributions for current service.

This is yet another reason, important to the millions of pension fund members, why it is vital for the Government to lead the way to the conquering of inflation.

Investments

The balance sheet shows separate figures for the long-term, short-term and stockholders' funds. The long-term business dominates the scene and this section deals mainly with the figures for the company as a whole.

Total assets of the company at balance sheet value rose by £53m to £778m after a further writing-up of the property portfolio by £5m (net of tax provision).

Gross investment income increased by £8m to just under £61m. The percentage contributions by main sources, for last year and 1973, were:

British Government securities (including future redemption profits)	22.8	(22.0)
Overseas and loan stocks	16.6	(16.7)
Mortgages and loans	10.3	(10.7)
Property	12.0	(12.0)
Ordinary shares	28.8	(31.5)
Other assets	8.7	(5.1)

The contribution from 'other assets' again rose materially as interest rates and the size of balances kept on short-term deposit continued to increase. At the year-end, short-term deposits in the United Kingdom amounted to £57½m compared with £16½m the year before. Of such deposits £50m related to the long-term business and represented 6½ per cent of the long-term assets.

The building up of additional liquidity was a continuation of the policy adopted during the previous year in view of the serious business and investment uncertainties that arise from the many problems caused by high inflation.

Against the background of a deteriorating inflationary situation, investment policy in 1974 was directed towards some diminution in fixed-interest commitments accompanied by a measure of investment in sound U.K. industrial equities on the ground that despite current difficulties many values seemed to discount the poor immediate outlook and that in the event of extreme conditions arising investment in basic economic activities should be capable of retaining a value in real terms.

Over the year, gilt-edged securities were reduced by £9m and other fixed-interest investments by £7½m. Gross advances under house purchase mortgages totalled £9½m; after repayments of £4½m, net lending amounted to £5m.

Equity transactions were predominantly in United Kingdom shares. Purchases totalled £14½m but disposals, largely through acceptances of cash offers, reduced net equity investment to just over £6m.

Net investment in property amounted to £5½m and the portfolio was written up by £5½m. The forward programme at the year-end comprised planned purchases and developments totalling £15½m. The property investments and commitments include £4m in respect of our own development at Peterborough to house our computer operations and related departments.

The year-end valuation, at mid-market prices for quoted investments, directors' valuation for unquoted investments and based on the directors' consideration of a valuation by the company's surveyor for real property, showed the following figures in relation to balance sheet values (1973 figures in brackets):

	Balance sheet value (£m)	Year-end valuation (£m)	Appreciation (+) depreciation (-) (£m)
Ordinary shares	226 (215)	183 (382)	-33 (-147)
Fixed interest securities	265 (288)	173 (236)	-92 (-52)
Real property	105 (88)	166 (221)	+61 (+133)
Loans and mortgages (mainly house purchase)	94 (80)	68½ (70)	-25½ (-20)

These figures reflect the unprecedented falls that occurred in 1974 in the value of all types of securities in the United Kingdom and in most major markets abroad.

The value of the currency premium on overseas investments at the year-end which amounted to just over £19m (1973—£11m) after allowing for potential surrender requirements, has been ignored in the valuation shown above.

Included in the foregoing figures are those relating to the short-term and the stockholders' funds where there is a net appreciation of £565,000 on stock exchange securities on a combined asset total in the balance sheet of £40½m. To this appreciation should be added £780,000 of currency premium net of contingent surrender obligation.

The figures I have given do not allow for the tax that would be payable or recoverable on a realisation of gains or losses on the investments.

The yield on the life funds of 8.47 per cent (7.91) in the ordinary branch and 8.46 per cent (7.94) in the industrial branch resulted from significant increases in dividend and rental income as well as interest income including short-term deposits.

The investment income of the short-term fund was £2.44m (£1.80m) and that of the stockholders' fund £1.08m (£0.90m).

Life Valuations and Bonuses

The valuations of the life liabilities have been made on the same basis as for 1973 except for changes of minor effect in the ordinary branch.

In the ordinary branch the surplus for the year was some £1.4m higher than in 1973, at £17.6m. We have been able again to increase the reversionary bonuses on United Kingdom policies, whilst, as I mentioned earlier, the terminal bonuses are at a lower level than last year.

The bonuses declared for the overseas territories are similar to those for 1973 except that the terminal bonus for South Africa is at a reduced level.

In the industrial branch the surplus for the year was £16.0m. The reversionary bonuses are at levels equivalent

to those for 1973, and the terminal bonus, as with the ordinary branch, is at a reduced level.

General Branch

Premium income in the general branch, world wide, increased by £2.6m, approximately the same amount as in 1973; in percentage terms, therefore, the growth rate was lower—13½ per cent compared with 16½ per cent. The lower percentage is partly due to our withdrawal from some agencies as reported in earlier years, to loss of income in New Zealand due to certain classes of insurance coming under State control and to our withdrawal from a London casualty pool. The increase in the Home account was 17 per cent, not far from the average rate of inflation during the year but by the year-end not in fact representing true growth in the account.

The underwriting loss was just under £3.5m compared with £2.25m in 1973. A substantial increase in the investment income earned on the general insurance fund reduced the net loss to £1.24m.

The increased underwriting loss reflects a deterioration in our Home account arising from a higher-than-average number of large fire and pecuniary loss claims, including involvement in the Fibborough disaster, which affected our relatively small industrial and commercial portfolio, continued adverse results in Canada and Australia—in the latter case arising from the reinsurance protection given to our associated company—and to terminal losses from our participation in the London casualty pool.

Vigorous action has already been taken to reverse the worsening trend that has appeared in our accounts over the last two years. In the case of the London casualty pool we withdrew our participation at the end of 1973 and, although the account will take some years to run off, provision has been made in 1974 for all known and anticipated losses. Canada has been a source of some concern for a number of years now and we have been examining ways of correcting the situation. Unfortunately our studies have not produced a satisfactory answer to the requirement of a return to profitability and it was with

great regret that, in agreement with the Eagle Star Insurance Co. Ltd., we took the decision, announced in January 1975, to cease operations in that country. Further underwriting losses and terminal costs in respect of staff redundancies will be incurred during the run-off of our accounts in 1975 and to a lesser extent in 1976, but we are satisfied that we have taken the only course of action open to us in the circumstances.

I mentioned last year that we expected that a return to profitability in Australia would take some time to achieve and the occurrences of natural disasters at Brisbane in January and at Darwin in December have hindered the efforts made during the year to improve the underwriting results. However, there are welcome signs that the pace of market action to remedy the wholly unsatisfactory rating situation is quickening and our associated company, Australian Eagle Insurance Co. Ltd., (in which we have a 23 per cent interest) as well as playing its full part in this work, has already imposed substantial rate increases in respect of certain categories of hitherto unprofitable risks.

In the Home field the property account has produced satisfactory underwriting results for some years and despite the adverse experience of 1974 in the industrial sector which resulted in a marginal overall underwriting loss the portfolio consists of basically profitable business involving a considerable spread of risks in the domestic field. Similarly the pecuniary loss account was affected by the large fire losses which had a disproportionate effect on the small premium volume involved.

UK motor premium income increased by 18 per cent and the underwriting results improved although still showing a small loss. Premium rates were raised in the last quarter of 1974 but it is now clear that the increase was insufficient to combat the present rate of inflation. Further increases are now to be applied from 1st June pending a general review of the whole rating structure in October.

The liability account, which is still small in volume, is particularly vulnerable to inflationary tendencies and ever-increasing Court awards. The account is under active review to provide a rating pattern which will correct the adverse experience of the past

years and put the account on a profitable basis.

The personal accident account, with a premium income of some £700,000 mainly in the Home market, produced an underwriting loss. This account is also under current review.

We have seen an overall improvement in our other direct underwriting overseas and there is reason to believe that the strong action taken in some areas is having the desired effect, although some problem areas remain which will be kept under close examination.

Our subsidiary companies in Brazil and USA were both adversely affected in their underwriting results but 'Monarca' in Brazil had a profitable outcome due to buoyant investment income. The 'Monarch of Ohio' in USA, which is largely a long-term fund investment, suffered from the general market claim deterioration and also from the fall in stock market values but it still maintained a healthy policyholders' surplus position at the year-end.

The marine, aviation and transport account has shown appreciable growth mainly due to our expansion of London market marine writings. The 1974 account has been closed showing a satisfactory outcome and we have continued our policy of maintaining the fund well in excess of liabilities after the transfer to profit and loss account.

Proposed Dividend

In considering their recommendation for a final dividend, the directors have been influenced by a number of considerations.

The long-term business transfers to profit and loss account are only slightly higher than those for 1973, largely because of the smaller component corresponding to the cost of terminal bonuses. This component inevitably fluctuates from year to year and it is appropriate to have regard to its average level rather than to individual high or low values.

The general branch results have been unsatisfactory but action has been and is being taken. As I have mentioned, we have withdrawn, as from the end of 1973, from a London casualty pool, for which terminal costs had to be met during 1974, and we have ceased transacting business in Canada, and while substantial terminal costs will have to be met in 1975 these will fall away rapidly thereafter. In Australia and elsewhere corrective action is being taken. There is therefore, a justifiable expectation of improved underwriting results in the non-life field.

In addition to these factors, the unappropriated balance of the profit and loss account has been materially increased in recent years.

In the light of these considerations the directors have felt justified on this occasion in recommending an increase, at the maximum level permitted, in the dividend for 1974 even though it is not fully covered by the profit for the year shown in the profit and loss account.

Profit & Loss Account

The main 'income' items of the profit and loss account are transfers from the long-term business totalling £3,256,000 and investment income of £1,080,000 thus maintaining the higher level achieved on the stockholders' fund following the segregation of assets carried out in 1973. There is also a transfer of £100,000 from the marine, aviation and transport account.

The general branch results, after allowing for investment income, have led to the need for a transfer out of the profit and loss account, amounting to £1,235,000.

After meeting the cost of dividends including the proposed final dividend, the balance in the account is £531,000 lower at £2,652,000.

Tribute to the Staff

As I have indicated elsewhere in this statement, national conditions generally and inflation in particular are unhelpful to the Company and the Staff in our endeavours to ensure that the Company grows in real terms, growth which is essential to the continued progress of the staff in their jobs. We all have to work hard together to achieve these ends and it is fitting that I should close this statement with an expression of thanks to staff and representatives at all levels, at home and overseas, who have contributed to our progress towards these ends during 1974.


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